TOKYOPOP
OSSAN IDOL
02
ICHIKA KINO • MOCHIKO MOCHIDA

OSSAN IDOL 02

MANGA ♦ ICHIKA KINO
ORIGINAL STORY ♦
MOCHIKO MOCHIDA
CHARACTER DESIGN ♦
MIZUKI SAKAKIBARA

YOICHI (41)

YOICHI KISARAGI
HE WAS OVER 300LBS, BUT NOW YOICHI IS THE CEO OF A SMALL ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY. HE AND MIROKU MET AT THE GYM. A GENTLEMAN WHO IS A BIT TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIS MUSCLE MASS.

SHIJU (40)

SHIJU ONOHARA
FORMER DANCER AND HOST, NOW UNEMPLOYED AND LEADING A LIFE ON THE EDGE. SHIJU HAS HIS GOOD SIDE, TOO. HE WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THAT MIROKU TAKE PART IN THE DANCE COMPETITION.

FUMI

FUMI KISARAGI
YOICHI'S BUBBLY NIECE WHO WORKS AT HIS OFFICE. SHE ALWAYS PUTS HER ALL INTO HER WORK.

KAMO LAVENDER

PRODUCER EXTRAORDINAIRE OF NATIONALLY TREASURED IDOL GROUPS SUCH AS "UGUISUDANI SEVEN."

LET'S GET INTO THE STORY!

STORY

MIROKU, A 270LB, UNEMPLOYED SHUT-IN, JOINED A GYM, GOT IN SHAPE, AND TRANSFORMED INTO A MIDDLE-AGE HUNK IN NO TIME! SPURRED ON BY THE POPULARITY OF HIS 'LET'S DANCE' VIDEO, HE SETS HIS SIGHTS ON BECOMING AN IDOL. JUST AS MIROKU IS GETTING TO KNOW YOICHI AND SHIJU, WHO HE MET AT THE GYM, THE THREE ARE OFFERED AN IDOL GROUP DEBUT BY MR. LAVENDER, A BIG SHOT PRODUCER IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY!

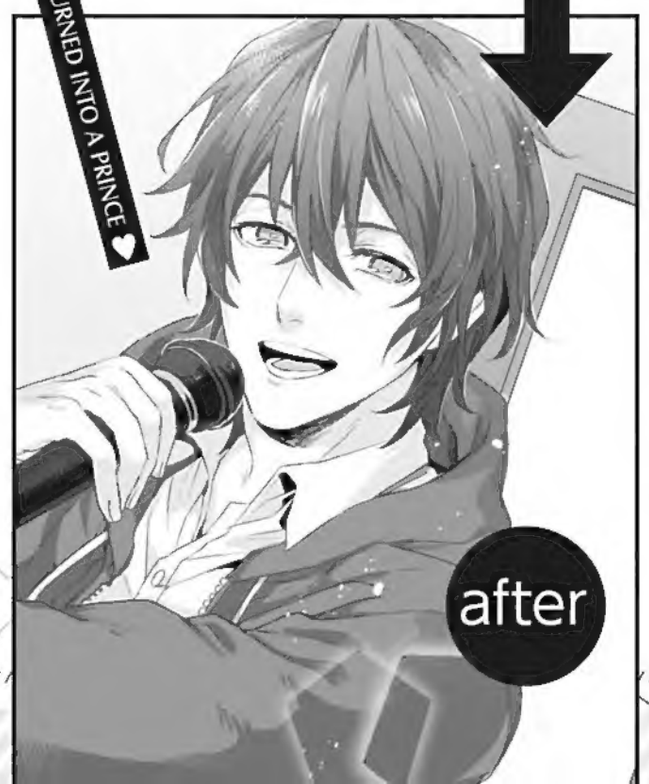
CHARACTERS

MIROKU (36)

MIROKU OSAKI

UNEMPLOYED • SHUT-IN • VIRGIN

INTERNET ADDICT • WEIGHT 270LBS
GIVES OFF WEIRD VIBES



OSSAN IDOL

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Chapter 6

H-HANG ON JUST A SEC!
!
MIROKU MIGHT HAVE ALREADY SAID YES BUT...
WELL, WE HAVEN'T.
I GET YOU WANT MIROKU, BUT...
YOU WANT US, TOO... AT OUR AGE...
OH.
...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T TRUST ME?
I HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE...
AND NO DOUBT.
I...
WILL BE STARS!
YOU THREE...

YOU'LL SHINE EVEN BRIGHTER!
WITH THE THREE OF YOU TOGETHER...
BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES.
DON'T BORE ME WITH EXCUSES LIKE "I'M TOO OLD FOR THIS."

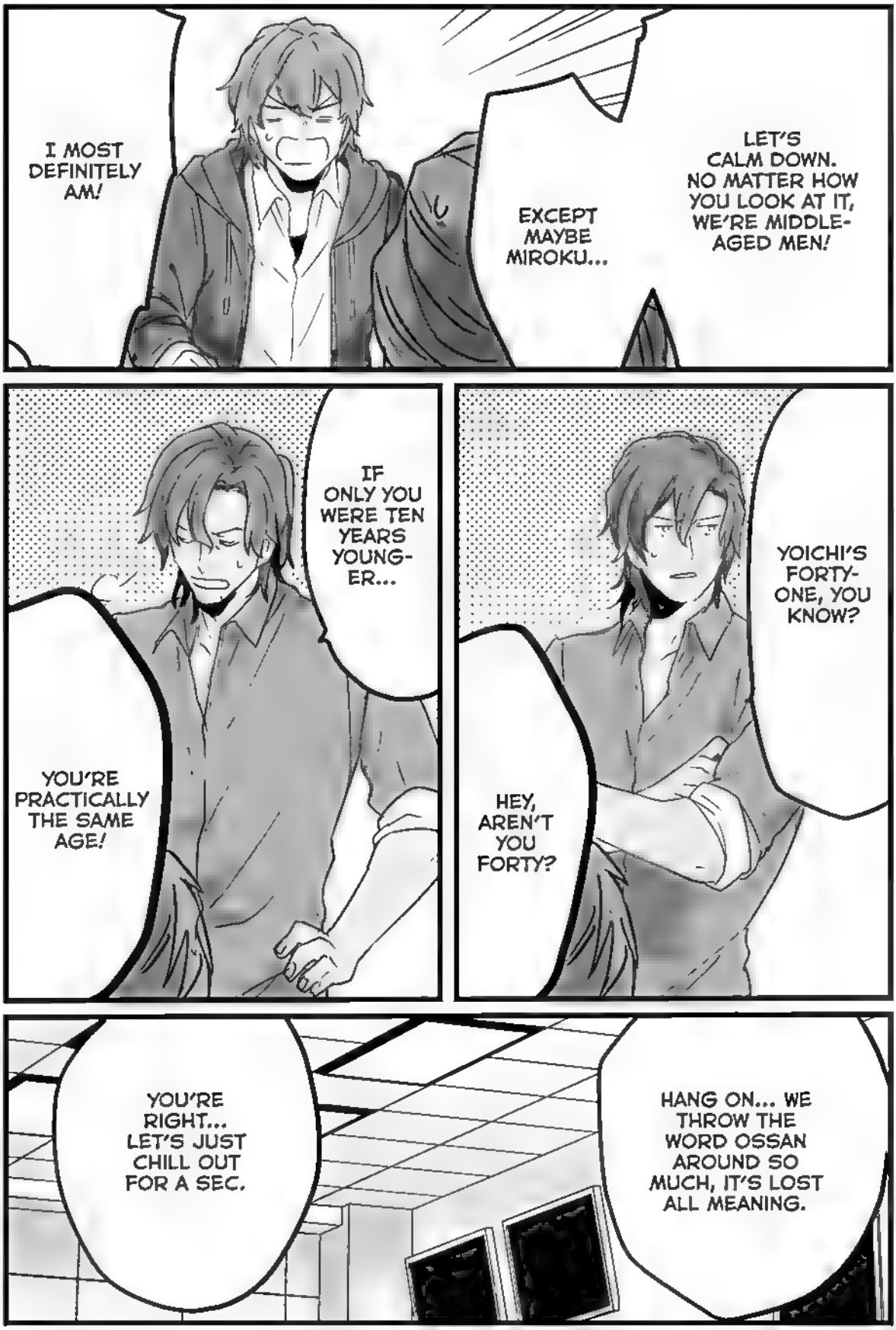
IDOLS...?

WE'RE GONNA BE...

IDOLS...?

CEO
OSSAN
SHUT-IN
OSSAN
UNEMPLOYED
OSSAN

NO WAY!!
NO NO NO NO!!


I MOST DEFINITELY AM!
EXCEPT MAYBE MIROKU...
LET'S CALM DOWN. NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, WE'RE MIDDLE-AGED MEN!
IF ONLY YOU WERE TEN YEARS YOUNG-ER...
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY THE SAME AGE!
HEY, AREN'T YOU FORTY?
YOICHI'S FORTY-ONE, YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE RIGHT... LET'S JUST CHILL OUT FOR A SEC.
HANG ON... WE THROW THE WORD OSSAN AROUND SO MUCH, IT'S LOST ALL MEANING.

YOICHI'S THE CEO OF A COMPANY, RIGHT?
YOU SURE YOU'LL HAVE THE TIME?
I MEAN, I'M UNEMPLOYED SO IT'S NO PROBLEM FOR ME.
THEY'LL HAVE TO FACTOR THAT IN!
RUNNING A COMPANY WHILE WORKING AS AN IDOL SOUNDS PRETTY DIFFICULT.
YEAH...
DIDN'T SOUND LIKE I HAD A CHOICE THOUGH.

SURE, IT SOUNDED LIKE AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE.
PART OF BEING A CEO IS YOUR PRESENCE AT THE COMPANY.
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE BEING PRESSURED INTO MAKING A CHOICE.
BESIDES... IT BROUGHT BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES.
?
DOOM
HE DEFINITELY GIVES OFF THE VIBE THAT HE COULD END ANYONE'S CAREER.
EXACTLY.
I EXPECT NOTHING LESS FROM THE BIG SHOT PRODUCER BEHIND UGUISUDANI SEVEN.

I'M HAPPY THE THREE OF US CAN DO SOMETHING TOGETHER AGAIN!
I WON'T BE ON MY OWN.
BETTER?
DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. I FEEL A LOT BETTER NOW!
I GUESS... BUT YOICHI HAS A COMPANY TO RUN.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FEEL FORCED TO.
YEAH...

I'LL HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON ANY DECISIONS THOUGH, OF COURSE.
FUMI'S BEEN SHOWING PROMISE.
IN THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO, MAYBE I COULD LET FUMI LOOK AFTER THE COMPANY.
FUMI?
FREEZE
...
YOU OKAY MIROKU?
I THINK SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE ALL OF THE SCHEDULING BY HERSELF.
FUMI WORKS HERSELF HARD AS IT IS.
IF YOU NEED ANY HELP, MIROKU, JUST LET ME KNOW!

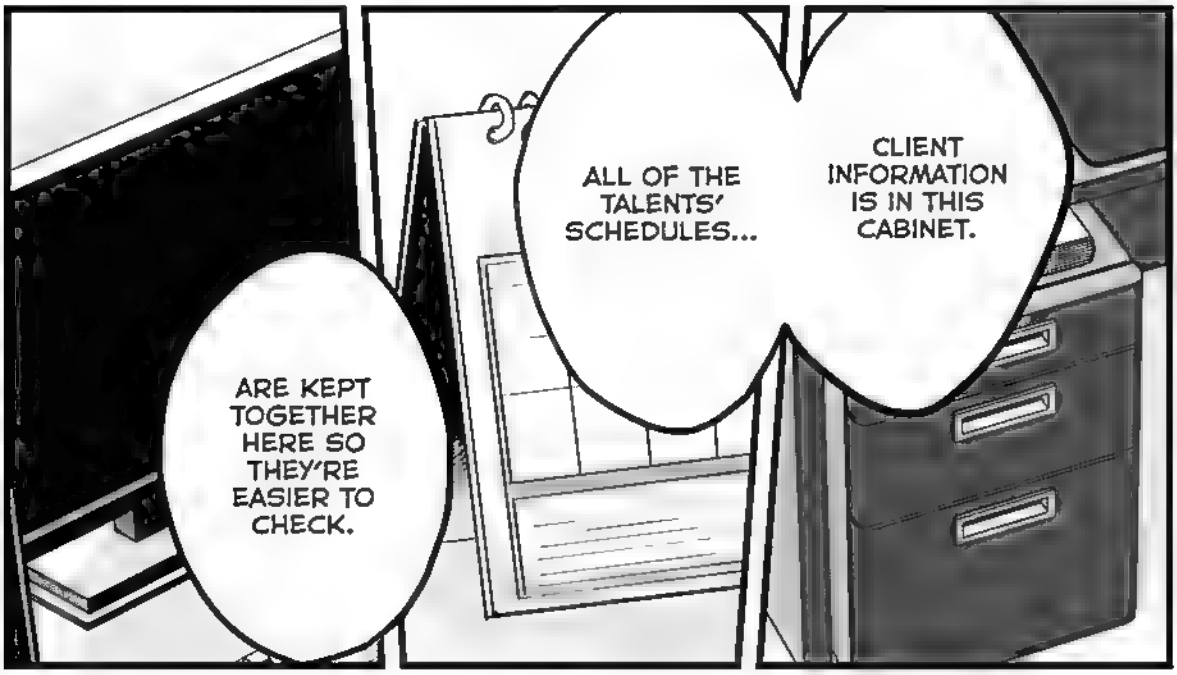
FUMI IS SO COOL...

HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S DOING IT.
YOU'VE GOTTA TALK TO HIM ABOUT THIS, OSSAN.

BING
HM?
WHAT'S WITH THE BLANK STARE?!
UH... NOTHING?
DOING WHAT?!

HE ALREADY MADE A GROUP CHAT?!
KAMO ONEE
I'VE GOT THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU THREE BOYS.☺❤
HE JUST LEFT!
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY... THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU THREE BOYS ☺❤?
THIS IS GETTING SERIOUS!

Chapter 7


CLIENT INFORMATION IS IN THIS CABINET.
ALL OF THE TALENTS' SCHEDULES...
ARE KEPT TOGETHER HERE SO THEY'RE EASIER TO CHECK.

UNCLE?

WELL, FOR NOW HOW ABOUT WE CHECK THEM TOGETHER?

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE AN IDOL?
I THINK I'VE COVERED EVERY-THING.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU'RE NOT SURE OF, JUST GIVE ME A CALL.
O-OKAY!
I GUESS EVEN MY NIECE IS AGAINST THE IDEA OF ME BEING AN IDOL AT THIS AGE.
I'LL HAVE TO CALL MIHACHI ABOUT MIROKU, TOO.
MIHA-CHI?
YEAH. YOU'VE MET MIHACHI BEFORE, RIGHT?
YES.
I'VE CHATTED WITH HER A FEW TIMES AT THE GYM.

I SAW YOU TWO TOGETHER AT THE OFFICE NOT LONG AGO.
WAIT A SEC.
YOU AND MISS MIHACHI SEEM TO GET ON WELL.
YEAH, I GUESS.
JUST THE TWO OF YOU?
I WAS JUST DISCUSSING MIROKU'S SITUATION WITH HER.
THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE STORY.
SHE DOESN'T MISS A THING.
THAT'S HOW IT GOES SOME-TIMES.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE ALONE WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

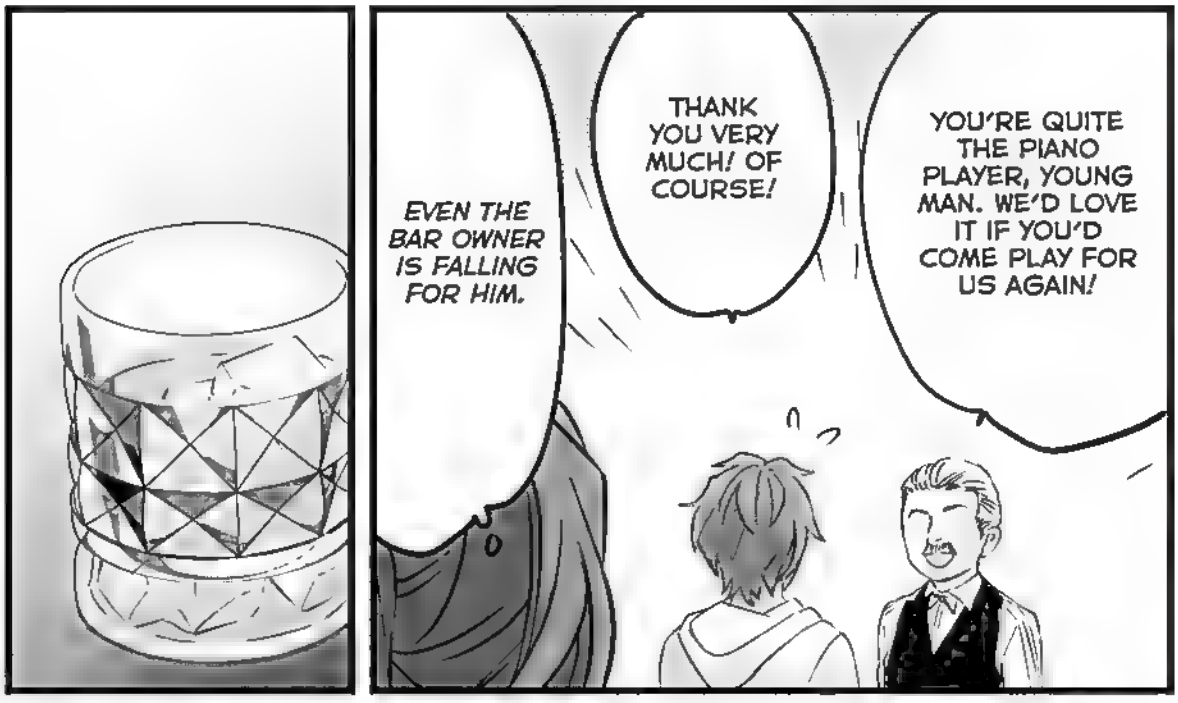
FUMI.
YOICHI.
GOOD AFTERNOON.
MISS MIHACHI!
I BROUGHT THOSE COSMETIC SAMPLES YOU WANTED.
W-WE WERE JUST...
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A VERY INTERESTING CONVERSATION.

WHAT ARE YOUR FEEL-INGS...
FOR MY UNCLE?
...
...
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO FEEL ABOUT YOUR UNCLE?

WELL...
SEE YOU.
SHUT
I'LL JUST LEAVE THE SAMPLES OVER HERE.
YOUR UNCLE AND I JUST DISCUSS BUSINESS SOMETIMES.
OH...

THE OSAKI FAMILY REALLY IS INCREDIBLE!

THE OSAKI FAMILY...
REALLY IS INCREDIBLE.
I HEARD YOUR SISTER WAS A TALENTED MUSICIAN. BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE, TOO.
YOU REALLY ARE A PRINCE.
STOP CALLING ME THAT!


EVEN THE BAR OWNER IS FALLING FOR HIM.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH! OF COURSE!
YOU'RE QUITE THE PIANO PLAYER, YOUNG MAN. WE'D LOVE IT IF YOU'D COME PLAY FOR US AGAIN!

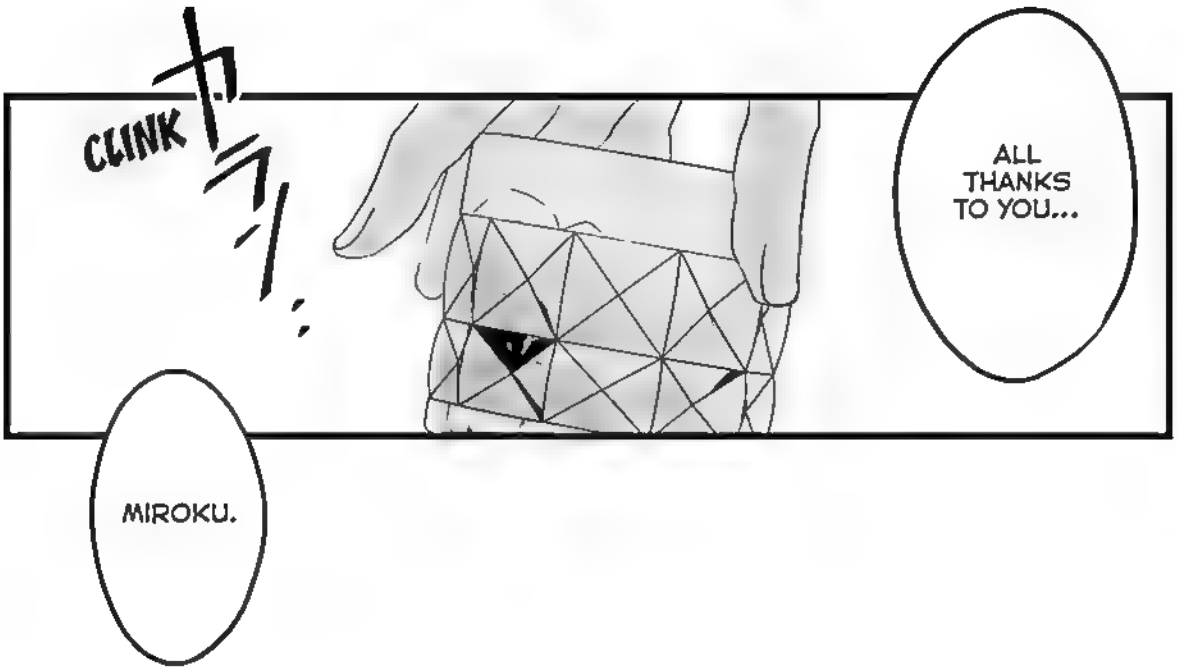
DOES HE PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?
EVEN THAT OSSAN YOICHI HAS AN EAR FOR MUSIC.

HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW?

HE USED TO BE AN IDOL.
WHAT?! REALLY?
HE WAS IN THE GROUP "ALPHA" UNDER SHINEEZ TALENT AGENCY. ALL OF HIS RELEASES WERE NUMBER ONE HITS.
HE LANDED ROLES IN ADVERTISEMENTS, DRAMAS, MOVIES AND THEATER PRODUCTIONS.
HE DEBUTED IN THE SUMMER.
BY CHRISTMAS HE'D ALREADY GOTTEN A SHOW AT TOKYO DOME.

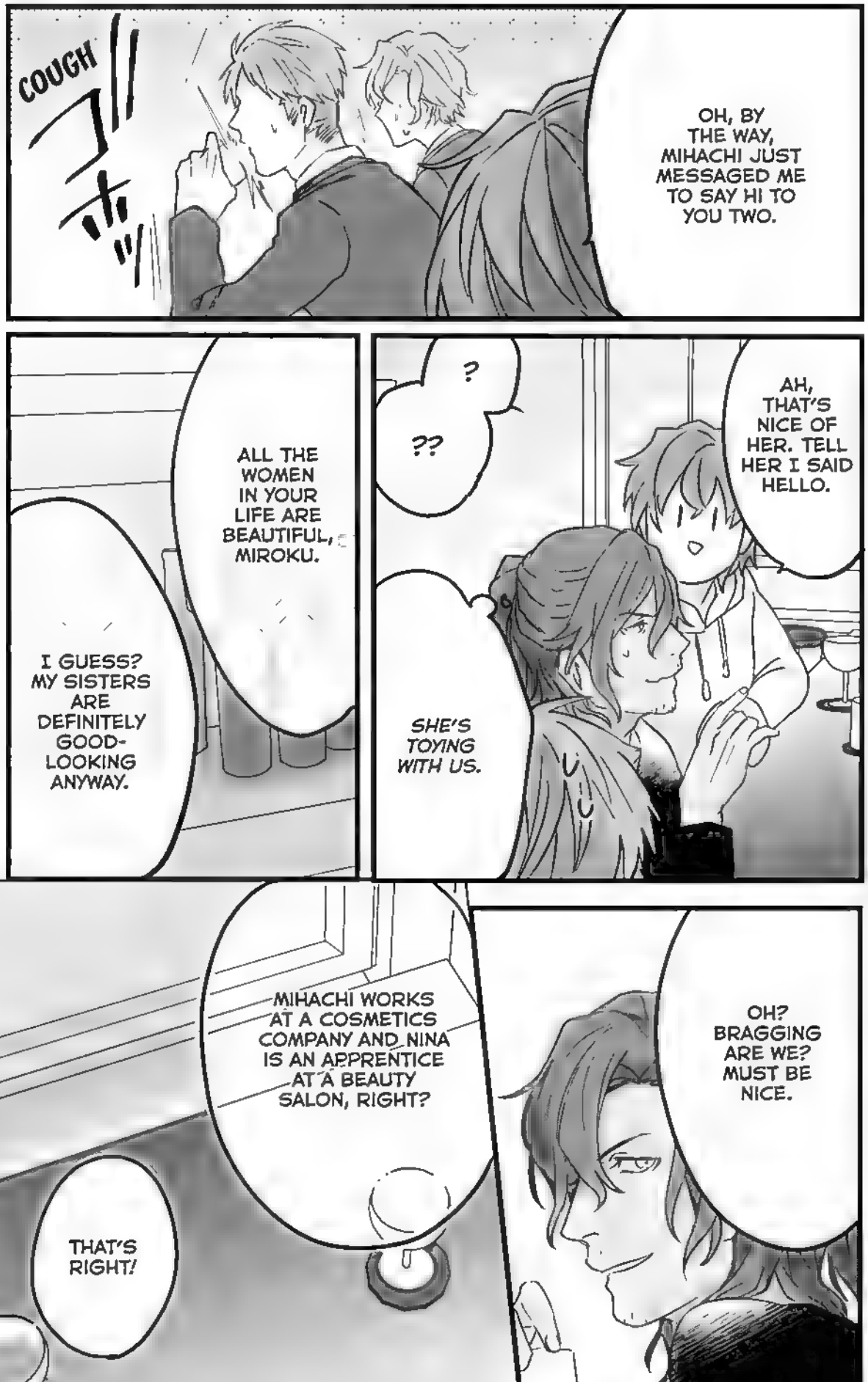
HE ENDED HIS LEGENDARY TOUR AFTER A FEW YEARS.
THEN HE SUDDENLY RETIRED.
THAT'S HOW WE MET. I WAS HIS BACKUP DANCER.

YOICHI PROBABLY HAD NO IDEA HE'D GO BACK TO THAT LIFE EITHER.
BACK THEN, I HAD NO IDEA I'D BECOME AN IDOL.


CLINK
ALL THANKS TO YOU...
MIROKU.

THANK YOU...
FOR GIVING THIS OLD MAN HIS DREAM BACK.
EXCUSE ME, MIND IF I SIT NEXT TO YOU?

YOU'RE LATE.
TEACHING SOMEONE THE INS AND OUTS OF THE BUSINESS ISN'T EASY.
YOICHI! FUMI!
NOTHING FOR ME.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, FUMI?
I'LL HAVE WHAT HE'S HAVING.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAD TIME TO PREPARE FOR THIS EITHER.
JUST WHEN SHIJU WAS SAYING SOMETHING NICE FOR ONCE...
WE WERE JUST WONDERING IF YOU'D BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH US. WHAT WITH YOUR AGE AND ALL.
WERE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT ME JUST NOW...?

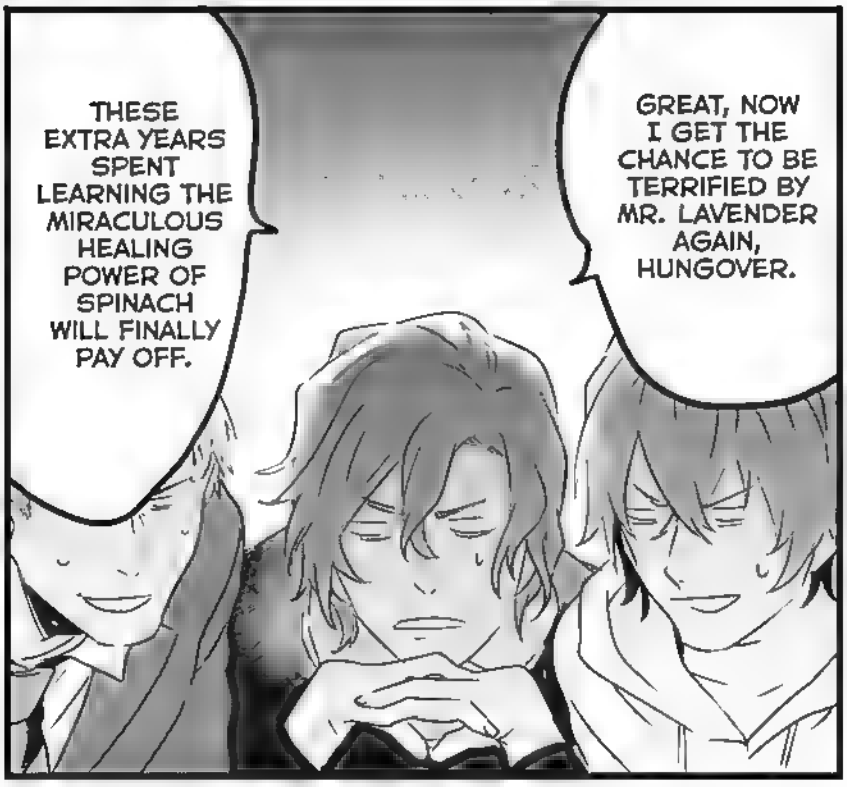

COUGH
OH, BY THE WAY, MIHACHI JUST MESSAGED ME TO SAY HI TO YOU TWO.
AH, THAT'S NICE OF HER. TELL HER I SAID HELLO.
?
??
SHE'S TOYING WITH US.
ALL THE WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE ARE BEAUTIFUL, MIROKU.
I GUESS? MY SISTERS ARE DEFINITELY GOOD-LOOKING ANYWAY.
OH? BRAGGING ARE WE? MUST BE NICE.
MIHACHI WORKS AT A COSMETICS COMPANY AND NINA IS AN APPRENTICE AT A BEAUTY SALON, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT!

POKE
REALLY?! THERE'S NO WAY. OH WAIT, YOU'RE RIGHT!
POKE
HEY, QUIT IT SHIJU!
I TOLD YOU...
MIHACHI'S COSMETICS ARE LIKE MAGIC. THEY MAKE YOUR SKIN SO SMOOTH!
I USE THEM ALL THE TIME.
SORRY, I COULDN'T HELP IT.
HEY, HOW LONG ARE GOING TO KEEP TOUCHING MY FACE?
SO THAT'S WHY ALL YOU OSAKI LOOK SO YOUNG...
I USE MY SISTER'S STUFF TOO.
I'M NOT LOOKING AFTER YOU TONIGHT.
DON'T PASS OUT.
HUH?
I FORGET.
HOW MANY DRINKS IS THAT, SHIJU?

OH, RIGHT. TOMORROW YOU ALL HAVE A BIG PHOTOSHOOT, TOO.
THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME, FUMI.
TRY NOT TO DRINK TOO MUCH, SHIJU.
YOU'RE DRUNK, SHIJU.
SOME OLD MAN WOULD BE VERY HAPPY WITH A BIT OF THAT KINDNESS IN HIS LIFE.
TOMOR-ROW?
PHOTO-SHOOT?

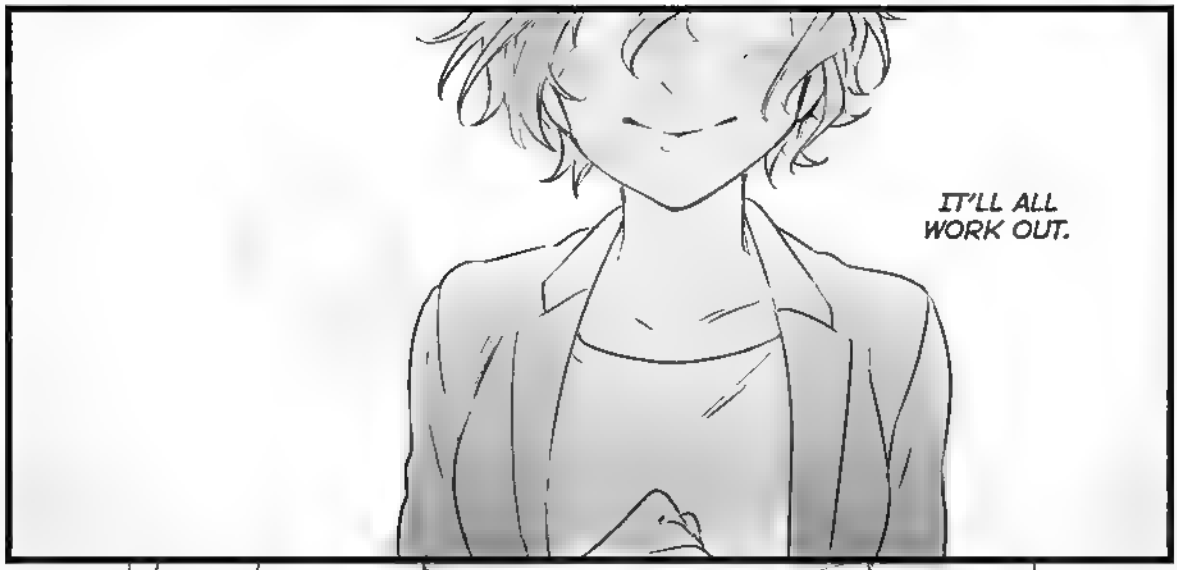
?!?!
H-HUH?
UH, YES?
I WAS TOLD YOU WERE ALREADY INFORMED.
MR. LAVENDER SENT YOU A MESSAGE ABOUT IT.
CLICK
THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!
I'VE GOT THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU THREE BOYS.☺♥

SOUNDS GREAT, FUMI!!
IT WAS RIGHT HERE.
I'M SURE I HAVE THE PAPERWORK SOMEWHERE...


THESE EXTRA YEARS SPENT LEARNING THE MIRACULOUS HEALING POWER OF SPINACH WILL FINALLY PAY OFF.
GREAT, NOW I GET THE CHANCE TO BE TERRIFIED BY MR. LAVENDER AGAIN, HUNGOVER.

THAT'S THE MAGAZINE MIROKU SHOT WITH LAST TIME!
GAINA
OH WAIT, THE PHOTOSHOOT IS FOR GAINA?

HE LOOKS EXCITED.
I'M SO RELIEVED.



KNOWING THESE THREE, I'M SURE IT'LL BE A LOT OF FUN!

HUH?
BUT...
CAN YOU LOOK OVER THESE WITH US?

FUMI!

YOU'RE THE BOSS, I DOUBT I CAN BE OF MUCH HELP.

I WANT YOU TO BE OUR MANAGER.

WE ALL NEED YOUR SUPPORT. SO... HOW ABOUT IT?

OF COURSE!

MORNING!
MIROKU! GOOD MORNING!
HEY! FUMI!
I SEE.
SEEMS YOICHI AND SHIJU WILL BE LATE.
I THINK THE TWO EDITORS ARE HERE ALREADY.
STOP IT!

THAT GUY...
SORRY, FUMI.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
RUSH
HEY, QUIT IT.
HUH?

GET LOST OSAKI.
YOU AGAIN?
TSK
...SAYS THE PHONY.
I CAN'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS.
LEAVE THEM ALONE.
HUH?

HOW'S THE PART-TIME MODELLING GIG?
WE HAVE A SHOOT TODAY.
THESE TWO LADIES COMMIS-SIONED THE SHOOT.
PLEASE, STOP IT!
APPEAR
はぁ!!
MIROKU IS A MODEL AT OUR TALENT AGENCY.
A MAGAZINE SHOOT, RIGHT?

BUT HE ENDED UP QUITTING.
AND THEN HE TURNED INTO A SHUT-IN LOSER.
!
THE COMPANY TOOK CARE OF HIM.
YOU KNOW THIS GUY USED TO BE AN UGLY FATSO, RIGHT?
SHOCKING, ISN'T IT? PUT A LOSER LIKE HIM IN YOUR MAGAZINE AND YOU CAN KISS YOUR REPUTATION GOODBYE!
IF IT WAS US–
I KNOW ALL OF THAT.

WE KNEW HIS HISTORY WHEN WE OFFERED HIM THE SHOOT.
WE WANT TO WORK WITH MR. OSAKI.
WHAT?!

TSK
DISRUPT OUR WORK AGAIN AND I'LL CALL THE POLICE.
HE'S A PROFESSIONAL, I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW.

GLOOM

FUMI, HOW CAN I THANK YOU?

YEAH.
THANK ME?

U-UM... I COULD USE A HUG...
?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?

ONCE AGAIN I WASN'T ANY HELP...
THAT'S NOT TRUE! YOU HELPED ME A LOT!

SNUGGLE
N-NEVER MIND! I'M JOK–
TOUCH
LIKE THIS?
!!!

UH, WE'VE GOTTA GET GOING!
R-RIGHT!

ARE THESE TWO DATING...?
TH-THUMP
ドキ
TH-THUMP
ドキ

Chapter 8

THESE THREE HAVE GOTTEN A LOT MORE WORK LATELY.

TODAY'S SHOOT IS GOING WELL, TOO.
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE A BIT RUSHED FOR TIME.
WE'VE GOTTEN MORE OPPOR-TUNITIES TO WORK WITH OTHER MAGAZINES.
SMILE

GREAT WORK TODAY, FUMI!
Y-YEAH. YOU TOO, MIROKU.
!!
YOU MUST BE TIRED. YOU HAD TO GET UP SUPER EARLY, RIGHT?
WHAT WAS WITH THAT HUG?
HE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

MAYBE MIROKU JUST SEES ME AS A LITTLE SISTER.
BESIDES, I ALREADY HAVE MY OWN HERO!
EVEN SO...

CATCH
HEY, I TOLD YOU TO PUT THIS OVER THERE!
SORRY!
AH!
STAGGER
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AH, IT'S OKAY.
I'LL HELP.
I'M SORRY!
Y-YES!
STARTLED
OF COURSE MIROKU HAS THE LOOKS.
HE HAS A GOOD PERSONALITY, TOO.
MIROKU!
A REAL PRINCE.

YOU'RE SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST TRYING TO PICK UP THAT CUTE GIRL?
NO!
!
WE CAN'T START WITHOUT YOU, MIROKU.
SORRY.
I'M JUST MOVING THIS. BE BACK IN A SEC!
SHIJU, TOO.
WATCH OUT, YOUNG LADY, OR YOU'LL BE GOBBLED UP.
THAT'S SLANDER, YOU KNOW!
HEY, YOU TWO!
YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT, YOUNG LADY.
BE CAREFUL HE DOESN'T LURE YOU IN.
PAT
HE GIVES OFF A UNIQUE VIBE.
SAYING HE HAS A MATURE CHARM ISN'T QUITE RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE, MIROKU.
I'M SORRY.
I WAS MAINLY TALKING TO SHIJU.
OH, OSSAN SURE HAS HIS FAVORITES, HUH?
YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE AT WORK?
UNCLE CAN BE SCARY WHEN HE NEEDS TO BE.
RIGHT.
OH.
I-IT'S FINE...
ARE YOU OKAY!?
IT SEEMS MY PARTNER WAS BOTHERING YOU.
MY APOLOGIES.

PAT
I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SUCH A GREAT GROUP.
I'M LUCKY.
THE FANS CAN SEE THEIR CHARM!
I JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE...

I'M BEAT!
YAWN
YOU NATURALLY HAVE GOOD POSTURE ANYWAY.
YOU DID REALLY WELL, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NEW TO THIS WHOLE MODELING THING.
FUMI WAS BESIDE THE PHOTOGRAPHER CHEERING ME ON THE WHOLE WAY SO I HAD TO JUST GO FOR IT.
NO WAY, I WAS NERVOUS THE WHOLE TIME.

NO WAY! I JUST RESPECT FUMI'S WORK!
WE DIDN'T SAY A THING ABOUT FUMI.
DEFINITELY LOVE.
LOVE?
W-WHAT?!
UGH...
OH?
WHAT?!
YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR FUMI, IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY?
HMM?
A NEW MESSAGE IN THE GROUP CHAT.
THAT MEANS...
BING

BINGO!
MR. LAVENDER.
I HEAR YOU ARE VERY BUSY.
HOWEVER, I'VE MANAGED TO GET YOU A BIG OPPORTUNITY.
SOMETHING THAT WILL GROW YOUR BRAND IN A FLASH.
RADIO!
HOWEVER, AS IT IS YOUR FIRST GROUP ACTIVITY IT NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO AS YOU ARE NOW.
BUT BEFORE ALL OF THAT..!

HE GOT US A RADIO SLOT, BEFORE WE EVEN OFFICIALLY DEBUTED.
MR. LAVENDER IS THE REAL DEAL.
WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A NAME FOR YOUR GROUP.
A FIFTEEN-MINUTE SLOT, TWICE A WEEK.
BUT AFTER ALL THESE MODELING GIGS I FEEL LIKE HE REALLY IS SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
I KNOW HE WASN'T JOKING BEFORE.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST HIM.
YEAH. THAT'S HOW IT SOUNDED TO ME, TOO.
POINT
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY "AS YOU ARE NOW?" SOUNDS LIKE HE DOESN'T THINK WE'RE READY TO BE IDOLS YET.

FIRST, WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A NAME.
MIROKU.. YOICHI... SHIJU...
HOW ABOUT TAKING THE FIRST SYLLABLES OF EACH OF OUR NAMES? "MIYOSHI."
OOH, THAT'S GOOD!
SO THAT'LL BE THE NAME OF THE RADIO SHOW, TOO?
"MIYOSHI!" DOES IT SOUND LIKE A RADIO SHOW?
I ACTUALLY THINK IT SOUNDS GOOD.
YOU DO?!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ALL THE PEOPLE ACTUALLY NAMED MIYOSHI IN THE COUNTRY FOR THIS.

OKAY, THAT'S PERFECT.
ONE, TWO...
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPOR-TUNITY!
YOU ALL SOUND GREAT!
OPEN
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SHOW!
YOU REALLY THINK US JUST BEING OURSELVES LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH?
MAYBE THAT'S THE IDEA, SOMETHING FRESH AND DIFFERENT?
BUT...

REGARDING HOW TO PROFIT OFF THEIR TALENT.
USUALLY THE TALENT AGENCY HAS A STRATEGY...
YOU SHOULD KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT, RIGHT, OSSAN?
IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER JUST LIKE MR. LAVENDER SAID.
IT'S SCARY TO THINK HE'S JUST PULLING ALL THE STRINGS.

LET'S DO IT OUR OWN WAY!
WELL... I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE REALLY IDOLS OR JUST OSSANS.
WE CAN'T JUST MARKET OURSELVES THE USUAL WAY.

OH, SEEMS THEY'RE BROADCASTING A LIVE VIDEO FEED, TOO!
HELLO! I'M MIROKU, MAIN VOCALIST OF MIYOSHI!
THAT NEVER HAPPENS!
THAT'S TO MAKE SURE SHIJU DOESN'T ACCIDENTALLY SAY ANYTHING WEIRD.
TODAY'S TOPIC IS...
HE'S A NATURAL.
WE'D LIKE TO THANK ALL YOU LISTENERS FOR MAKING THIS POSSIBLE.

WRITING A SONG!!!
CLENCH
IT WILL BE A POP SONG ABOUT LOVE. WE SPOKE ABOUT WRITING SOME LYRICS BUT...
THE THREE OF US WILL BE MAKING OUR IDOL DEBUT SOON.
BUT FIRST WE NEED A DEBUT SONG.
THAT MAKES SENSE.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M READY TO READ THEM ON THE RADIO. KINDA FEELS LIKE I'M BEING PUSHED OUT OF A PLANE.
HOW ABOUT IF WE READ EACH OTHER'S?
HAVE YOU GUYS COME UP WITH ANYTHING YET?
WELL...
I MEAN...
WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?
I-I'LL DO IT.
I PREFER TO GET THESE KINDS OF THINGS OVER WITH QUICK.
YOU READ THEM FOR ME, OSSAN.
OKAY.
LET'S SEE...

THE SWEET WINGS OF THE BUTTERFLIES BIND ME LIKE CHAINS. I GROW TIRED OF GETTING CAUGHT UP.
THE WORDS ON MY LIPS SHINE WITHOUT PASSION. THE BUTTERFLIES FLOCK THERE, DRIVEN TO BE SAVED BY THE LIGHT. IF YOU CATCH ME... IF YOU TIE ME DOWN...
I WANT YOU EVERY DAY. SWEET ENOUGH TO HATE. CHASING YOU. CATCHING YOU.
I WANT YOU. CATCH ME. KEEP ME. TO BE ONLY YOURS.

THE HELL KIND OF POP SONG IS THAT?!

LET'S HEAR YOURS THEN, MISTER KNOW-IT-ALL.
SULK
THIS ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A COMEDY SHOW.

ISN'T THAT HOW THEY ALL SOUND?
THAT WAS NOTHING LIKE ANY POP MUSIC I'VE HEARD!

WELL THEN... COULD YOU READ MINE PLEASE, MIROKU?
OF COURSE!

YOU'RE SO DAZZLING IN YOUR UNIFORM. I CAN'T STAY CLOSE. PLEASE TELL ME NOT TO LEAVE. I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH YOU CRY.
ONCE I REALIZED MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, I COULDN'T FACE THEM. I HAD TO WATCH YOU FROM AFAR. YOU CALLED ME A GOOD MAN, AND ONE BY ONE ALL THE BROKEN PIECES OF ME CAME BACK TOGETHER.
ONE DAY, I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE... THAT IS WHAT I HOPE FOR, DESPITE OUR DISTANCE. I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET... BUT IN THE END I HOPE I CAN SEE YOU SMILE.

HEY, SAY SOMETHING...

ITCHY?!
YOU KNOW... IT'S A BIT... DEPRESSING AND ITCHY.

I MEAN... IT'S NOT BAD...
WELL... IT'S A BIT... YOU KNOW...
HANG ON! WHAT KIND OF REACTION IS THAT?

MOVING ON SWIFTLY TO MIROKU'S.
THANK YOU.

I LOVED YOU...
BUT IT WASN'T SO SIMPLE.
LOVE ISN'T SOMETHING TO DO...
NOR SOMETHING YOU FALL INTO.
I WAS ADDICTED.
ADDICTED TO YOU.
I FELT A RHYTHM BEATING THROUGH US.
DO YOU LOVE ME?
DOES THIS STORY HAVE A HAPPY ENDING?
ONE PERSON CAN LOVE. THAT GIVES ME PEACE.
*REPEAT
IF I CAN FIND MY PERFECT RHYTHM WITH SOMEONE... I HOPE IT'S WITH YOU.
YOUR THREE WISHES.
BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
SMILE TOGETHER FOREVER.
AND FINALLY...
*REPEAT
KEEP A PERFECT RHYTHM WITH ME.

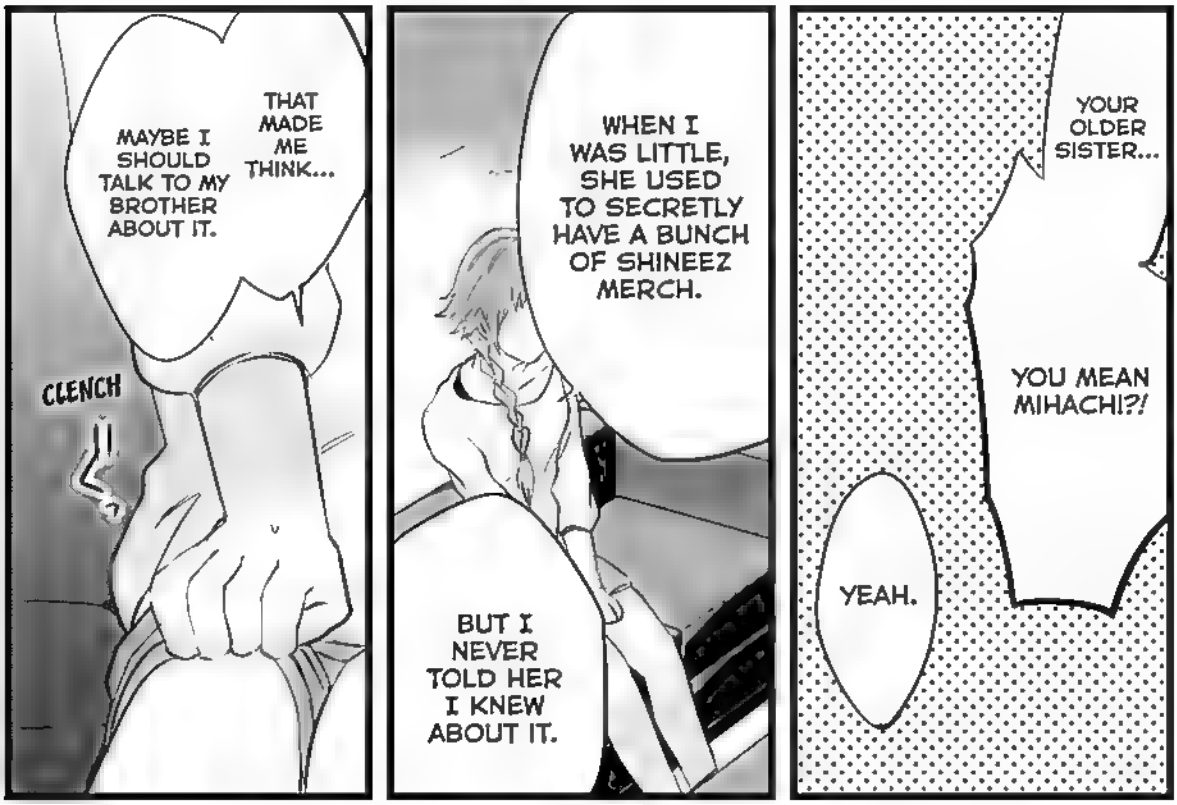
OOF, THAT'S SUGARY!!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT'S EXTREMELY SWEET...
YOU SAY THAT LIKE IT'S A BAD THING!
WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT YOU HAVE A VERY PURE AND INNOCENT HEART FOR A 36-YEAR-OLD BY NOW, MIROKU...
OOPS, WE'RE OUT OF TIME! THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!
OH! WE WERE MIYOSHI!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!

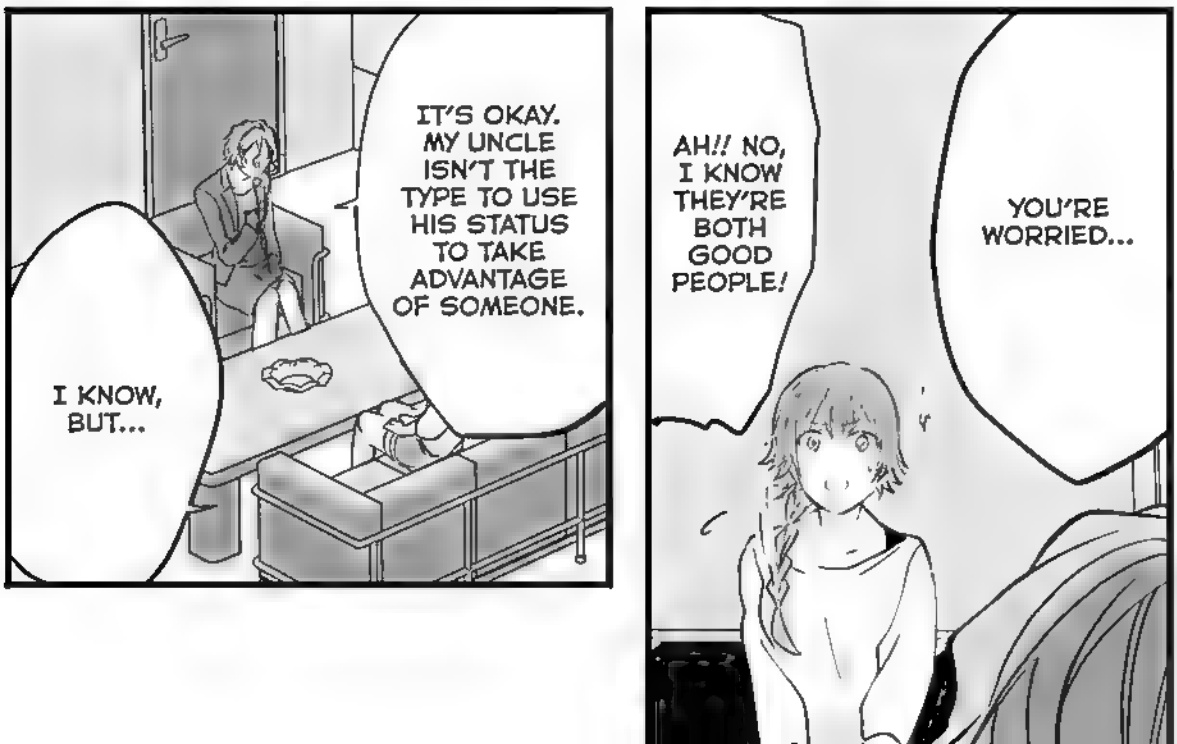
OH!
AH, YOU'RE NINA, RIGHT? MIROKU'S SISTER.
YOU'RE MY BROTHER'S MANAGER, RIGHT?
YEAH, HE'S NOT ANSWERING HIS PHONE. IS HE WORKING NOW?
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET YOU HERE. ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MIROKU?

AH, MAYBE.
NO, HE SHOULD BE OFF TODAY.
AH! MAYBE HE WENT TO THE GYM!
HANG ON!
GRAB
SOMETHING'S UP, RIGHT?!

YOU'RE MIROKU'S FAMILY! OF COURSE!
ARE YOU SURE?
IT'S REALLY HOT OUT. LET'S CHAT INSIDE.
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN TELL ME.
WELL... IT'S NOTHING MAJOR.
CHUCKLE
HA... I SEE. WHY NOT?

YOU'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE?
YEAH, I SAW HIM ON THE RADIO SHOW THE OTHER DAY. I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
MY UNCLE?
!
I KNEW IT!
THE GROUP WAS CALLED "ALPHA."
WELL, HE USED TO BE A MEMBER OF SHINEEZ.
I'M SURPRISED YOU REMEMBER. THAT WAS MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO!
YOU KNEW A FAN OF HIS?
IT WAS MY OLDER SISTER.
SHE WAS A STAN, I GUESS YOU'D SAY. SHE USED TO WRITE LETTERS TO HIM.
A FRIEND OF YOURS?


THAT MADE ME THINK...
MAYBE I SHOULD TALK TO MY BROTHER ABOUT IT.
CLENCH
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, SHE USED TO SECRETLY HAVE A BUNCH OF SHINEEZ MERCH.
BUT I NEVER TOLD HER I KNEW ABOUT IT.
YOUR OLDER SISTER...
YOU MEAN MIHACHI?!
YEAH.


IT'S OKAY. MY UNCLE ISN'T THE TYPE TO USE HIS STATUS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOMEONE.
I KNOW, BUT...
AH!! NO, I KNOW THEY'RE BOTH GOOD PEOPLE!
YOU'RE WORRIED...

...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
!!
WOAH! THIS IS A BIG DEAL! YOU SURE IT WAS OKAY TO TELL ME?!
I HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT OKAY.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.
I'LL BE OFF.
LET'S TALK AGAIN.
IT WAS REALLY NICE MEETING YOU, FUMI.

NICE WORK.
YOUR MOVES ARE GETTING WAY BETTER, MIROKU.
REALLY?!
YEAH, SEEMED LIKE YOU GOT REALLY INTO IT TODAY.
OR SHOULD I SAY...
YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE, SO YOU'RE EMBRACING IT.
I GUESS SO!

Chapter 9

NO.
LET ME BORROW YOUR SIS, MIROKU!
PLEASE!
YOU'RE DEFINITELY UP TO NO GOOD.
WHY ARE *YOU* SAYING NO? SHE'S MIROKU'S SISTER!
YOICHI SEEMS TO GET VERY TOUCHY WHEN IT COMES TO MY OLDER SIS.
OOF!
UNLIKE YOU.
FIRST OF ALL, SHE'S BUSY WORKING.

DO YOU NEED HER TO HELP YOU WITH SOMETHING, SHIJU?
UH...
KIND OF...
I WANTED TO TRY OUT SOME VOCAL TRAINING.
BUT I ONLY THOUGHT OF IT NOW, SO I DON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND A PRO.
AND I DON'T KNOW ANYONE AROUND AT THE MOMENT WHO CAN HELP.
YOU TWO ARE BUSY TODAY...
SO I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE TO ASK.
SIGH
OUTSIDE OF DANCING, I KNOW I HAVE THE LEAST SKILL.
I HAVE TO WORK ON IT.

JUST THIS ONCE.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
?

HUH?!

STARE
MIROKU'S LITTLE SISTER?
WHEN HE SAID HE KNEW SOMEONE WITH MUSICAL EXPERIENCE, I WAS SURE...
HMM?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
I'LL GO CHANGE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE CLOTHES. I JUST BORROWED THEM SO I WOULDN'T SEEM RUDE AND LAZY.
I WASN'T EXPECTING MIROKU'S LITTLE SISTER.
NINA.

BUT...
I THOUGHT JUST CALLING YOU BY YOUR NAME WOULD BE A BIT RUDE.
I'M NINA. NOT "MIROKU'S LITTLE SISTER."
REALLY?
IF IT WAS, I'D TELL YOU.
NO.
WELL THEN...
NICE TO MEET YOU, NINA.
...

NINA PLAYS PIANO TOO?
YUP. SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULD THINK OF WITH A BETTER EAR FOR MUSIC THAN MY OLDER SIS.
NINA IS GIVING HIM VOCAL LESSONS?
NO, SHE PLAYS VIOLIN.
SHE STILL PERFORMS FOR A VOLUNTEER ORCHESTRA.
SO I THOUGHT SHE COULD HELP HIM, JUST THIS ONCE.
SHE DECIDED TO BECOME A STYLIST, BUT SHE HAD THE TALENT TO BE A PRO MUSICIAN.

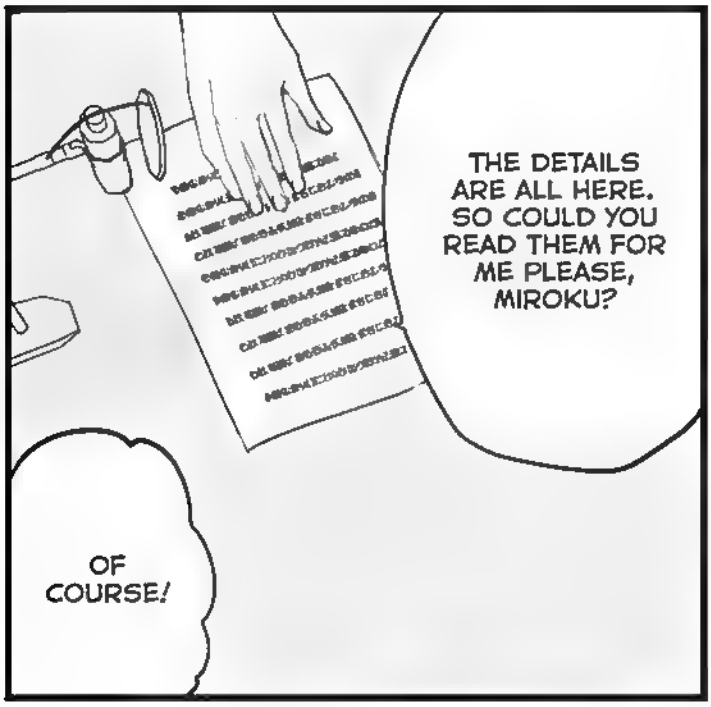
YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, MIROKU.
PHEW
I'M NOT OKAY WITH THIS! JUST THE THOUGHT OF MY BEAUTIFUL SIS BEING WITH THAT MONSTER!
EVEN THOUGH I HAD NO CHOICE!
THAT'S WHY I'M WORRIED!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, SHIJU IS JUST LIKE A LION.
DON'T YOU KNOW?
THEY MAY LOOK SCARY, BUT LIONS ARE TERRIBLE HUNTERS.

PANT
I'M BEAT...
PHEW!
I'LL BE OFF.
TURN
!!
YOU SHOULD THANK MY BROTHER.
LET'S END IT THERE FOR TODAY. I'M NOT AN EXPERT, SO I'M NOT SURE HOW THAT WENT.
YOU WERE A BIG HELP. THANK YOU.
YOU'RE GOING HOME ALREADY?
WHAT? YOU STILL NEED SOME-THING?
NO, BUT...
GRAB
BYE, THEN.
WAIT!

WHAT?
じ…
STARE
SHE'S SCARY!
UH... WELL, I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD BUY YOU DINNER AS A THANK YOU.
INSTANT REJECTION
NOT HUNGRY.
SO FAST!
SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DINNER. ANYTHING.
I JUST WANT TO PAY YOU BACK FOR YOUR HELP.
...
ALL RIGHT...
I'LL TRY AND THINK OF SOMETHING I WANT.
OKAY?
OKAY!

WE'RE BACK AGAIN FOR MIYOSHI RADIO!
I'M MIROKU, MAIN VOCALIST OF MIYOSHI.
IT SEEMS WE HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCE-MENT FROM YOICHI!
OH? REALLY?
MIYOSHI WILL BE MAKING A SPECIAL ANIME APPEAR-ANCE!
!!
WE WILL ANNOUNCE ALL OF THE DETAILS IN OUR NEXT LIVE PUBLIC SHOW.
OUR DEBUT SONG WILL ALSO BE PERFORMED IN THAT ANIME.
ALSO, IT SEEMS THE LYRICS OF THE SONG WILL BE THOSE MIROKU WROTE FOR US LAST TIME ON THE SHOW.
SPITS OUT DRINK

OH. MIROKU IS ON THE EDGE OF HIS SEAT.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE ANIME?!
YOU KNOW IT, MIROKU?
MIKU-LOTTE Ω?!
IT'S CALLED 'MIKULOTTE Ω'. APPARENTLY IT'S A....
THOSE LYRICS?! WHAT KIND OF COTTON CANDY ANIME IS IT?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
THE POPULAR SERIES ABOUT INTERSTELLAR WAR AND THE CHARACTERS CAUGHT UP IN IT IS HEADING INTO ITS FIFTH SEASON! UNDER HIGHLY-RESPECTED DIRECTOR KAWADA'S COMMAND, THIS SHOW'S POPULARITY SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN, WITH SEASON 4 BEING THE NUMBER ONE ANIME OF 20XX. MY PERSONAL FAVORITE IS SEASON 2, EPISODE 38. THE PROTAGONIST, WHO ABANDONED THEIR HOMEWORLD, IS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE ENEMY JUST AS THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY BACK. THEIR FRIENDS COME TO HELP BUT–
NO CHAT
NO CHAT
OF COURSE I KNOW IT!
MAN, HE JUST KEEPS GOING...


THE DETAILS ARE ALL HERE. SO COULD YOU READ THEM FOR ME PLEASE, MIROKU?
OF COURSE!

HE WAS A BIG OTAKU, YOU KNOW.
EASY TO FORGET, LOOKING AT HIM NOW.

YOICHI IS THE PRIME MINISTER WHO SERVES UNDER THE PRINCE.

I, MIROKU, AM PRINCE OF THE ENEMY COLONY.

SHIJU IS THE BRAVE KNIGHT WHO PROTECTS PRINCE MIROKU.

HANG ON.

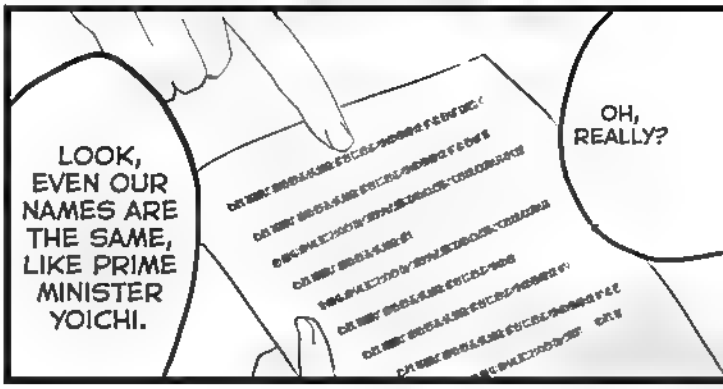
AH, HERE'S SHIJU'S PART.
YEAH, IT SAYS HERE THAT WE HAVE OUTFITS.
DO WE HAVE TO WEAR COSTUMES?
PAUSE
LOOK AT ME, OSSAN!!
A SCRIPT?!
IS THIS FOR REAL, OSSAN?
AH! COSTUMES! I'M SO EXCITED!!
MIROKU REALLY IS UP FOR ANYTHING.
JUMP
THAT'S ALL FROM MIYOSHI RADIO FOR TODAY!
JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT LIVE SHOW, WHERE WE'LL BE RELEASING MORE DETAILS ABOUT OUR ANIME APPEARANCE AND COSTUMES!

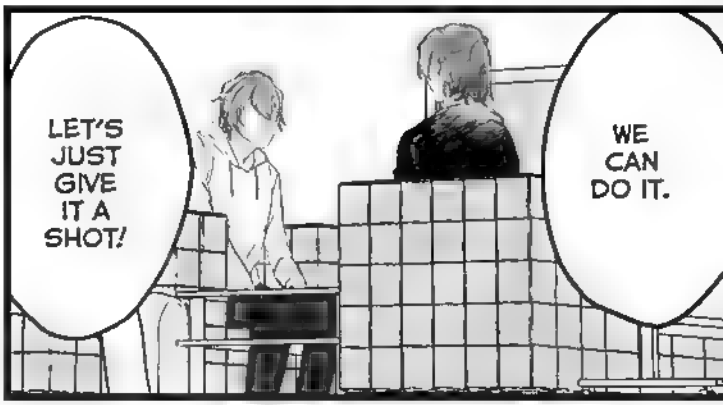
BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'LL LET US BE OURSELVES...
AND WE'RE NOT VOICE ACTING. OUR SONG WILL JUST BE A PART OF THE EPISODE.

COME ON. I HAVE NO ACTING EXPERIENCE. NEVER MIND PLAYING AN ANIME CHARACTER.

UH.
ACTING?
NO WAY.
IT'S NOT MY IDEA.

THERE ARE PEOPLE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING US.


LOOK, EVEN OUR NAMES ARE THE SAME, LIKE PRIME MINISTER YOICHI.
OH, REALLY?


LET'S JUST GIVE IT A SHOT!
WE CAN DO IT.

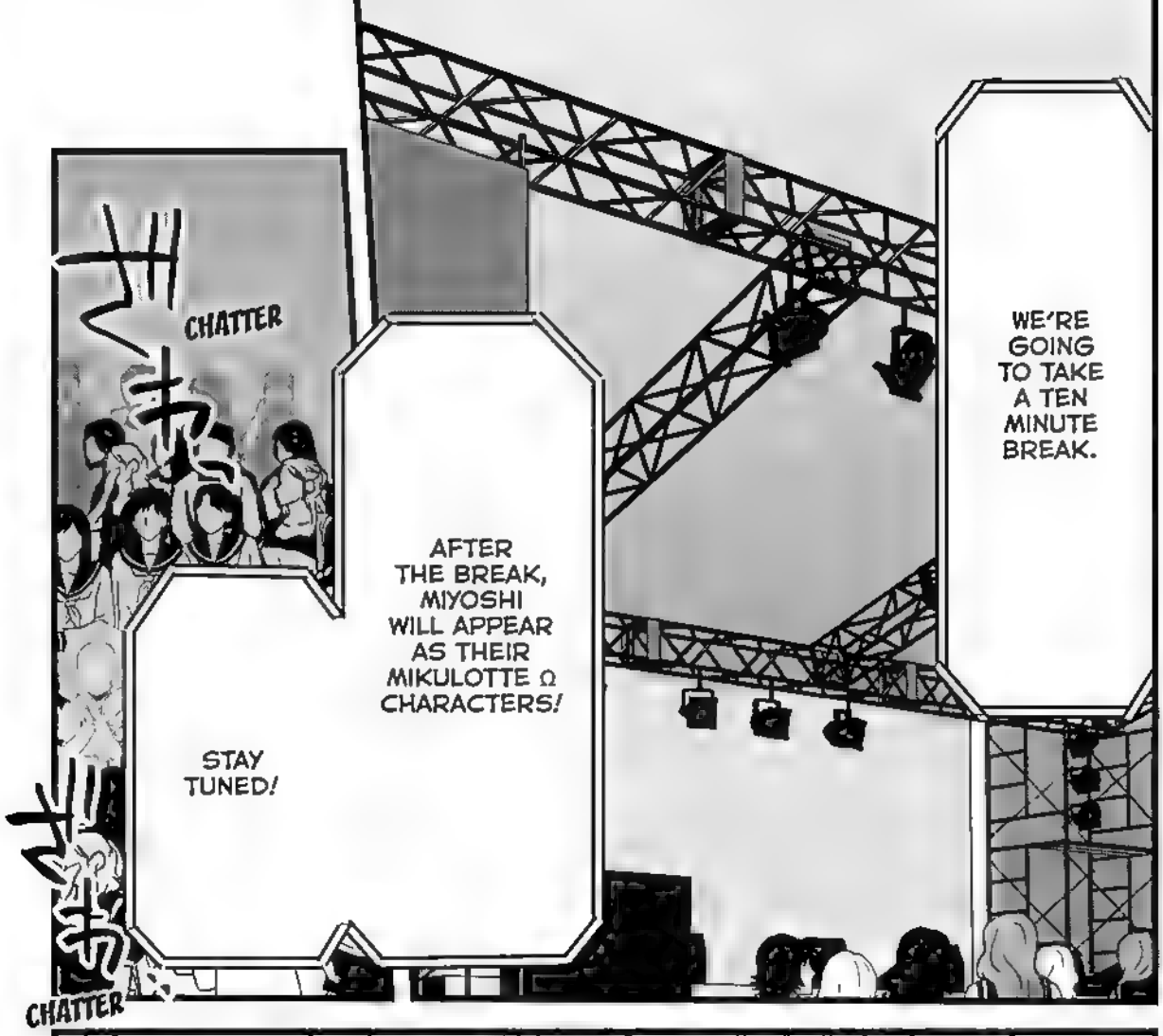
USING YOUR POWERS ON ME.
THAT'S NOT FAIR.
I FEEL LIKE GOING ALONG WITH IT NOW.

THE DAY OF THE SHOW
WHAT'S UP, MIROKU?
YOU LOOK NERVOUS.
HMMM
NO, IT'S JUST... I'M WONDERING IF I'M RIGHT FOR THIS CHARACTER.
OTAKU CAN BE HARSH JUDGES.
ON THE RADIO, WE CAN'T SEE THE LISTENERS.
ALSO...
HONESTLY, I'M A BIT WORRIED THEY WON'T EVEN SHOW UP TODAY.

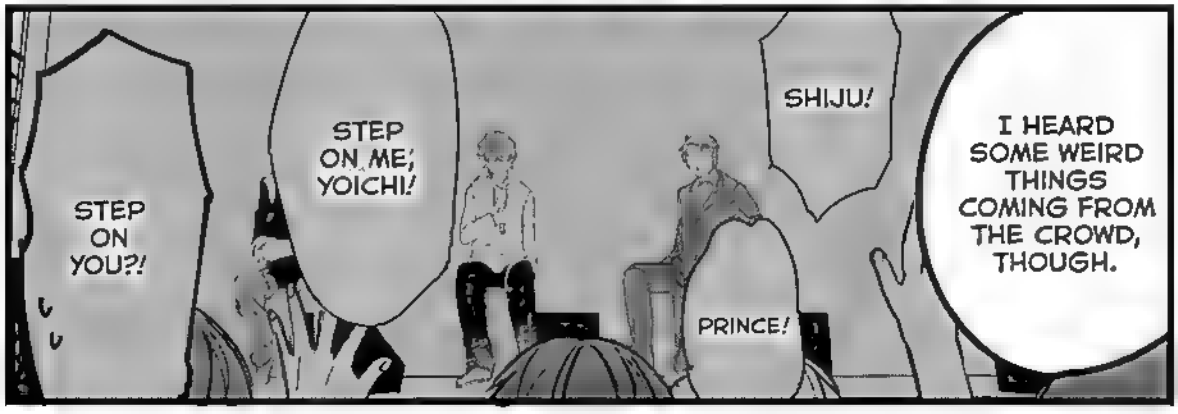
PAT
MIROKU...
I ALREADY SAID THIS TO SHIJU BUT...
SO ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO TRUST OUR FANS.
LET'S GO.
WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD.
RIGHT?

WAAH!
WAH!!!
KYAA!
WAH!
KYAA
MIYOSHI!

MR. ETSUKI FROM THE SHOP STREET.
MR. SAKAGUCHI FROM THE BAR, TOO.
SHOCK
HELLO, EVERY-BODY!!
LET'S GO!
WE'RE MIYOSHI RADIO!


CHATTER
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A TEN MINUTE BREAK.
AFTER THE BREAK, MIYOSHI WILL APPEAR AS THEIR MIKULOTTE Ω CHARACTERS!
STAY TUNED!
CHATTER

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY PEOPLE CAME!
WHAT A CROWD!


STEP ON YOU?!
STEP ON ME, YOICHI!
SHIJU!
PRINCE!
I HEARD SOME WEIRD THINGS COMING FROM THE CROWD, THOUGH.

FWIPP
YOUR COSTUMES ARE READY!
THANK YOU.
LET'S GET READY FOR THE SECOND ROUND.

SHOW THEM MIYOSHI'S CHARM!
EVERY-ONE...

OKAY!
I RULE THIS BLUE STAR.

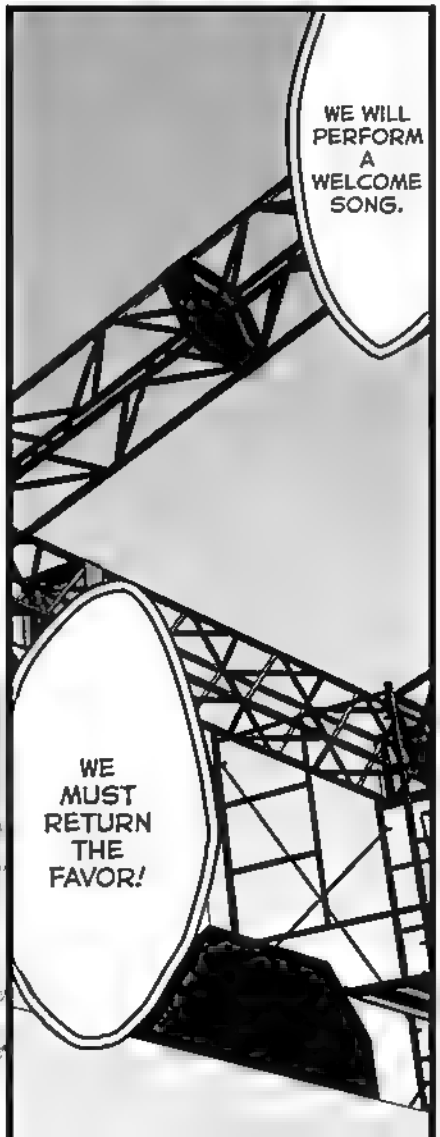
TO BECOME KING.
I DEVOTE MYSELF TO GOD...
ALLE-GIANCE TO THE PRINCE.
ALLE-GIANCE TO THE PRINCE.
WHOOSH

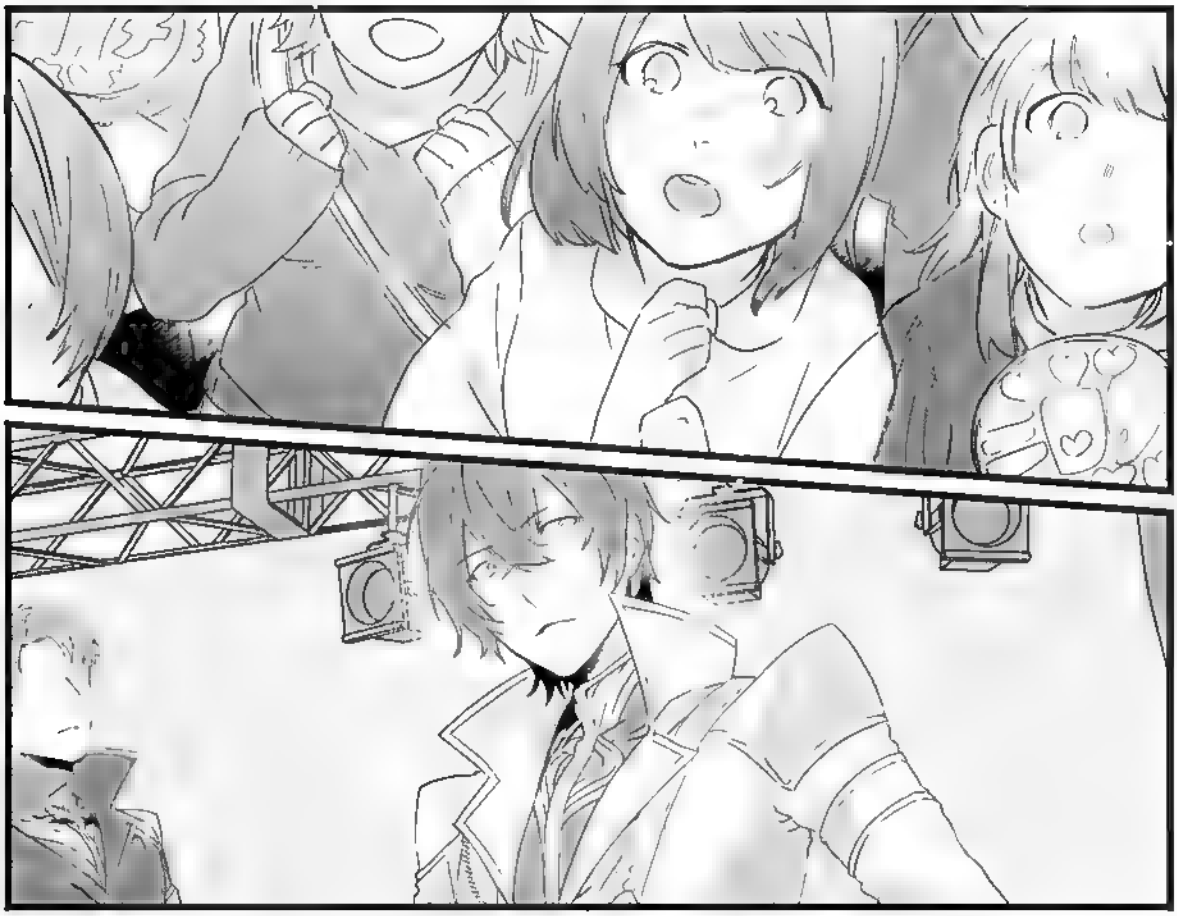
SHIJU, YOU'RE A KNIGHT. AT LEAST PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES PROPERLY.
SHUT UP.
AS LONG AS I PROTECT THE PRINCE WE'RE ALL GOOD.
THE POINT IS...

EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET IS WATCHING YOU.
YOU TWO.
STOP
CHATTER
ANYWAY...
WE NEED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THIS PLANET AS SOON AS WE CAN.

IT WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK.
YET IT SEEMS THERE ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO OPPOSE US.
PRINCE, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
LOOK... THE LADIES ARE GREET-ING US.

WE MUST ACT KINDLY AND GENTLY WITH ALL THE LA–
DAMN, I FORGOT–MY LINES...


WE WILL PERFORM A WELCOME SONG.
WE MUST RETURN THE FAVOR!



LET US LEAVE YOU WITH...
A SONG ABOUT A LOVE STRONG ENOUGH TO CAST A MAGIC SPELL.

TO SEE THE FULL STORY, PLEASE TUNE IN TO THE ANIME BROADCAST!
THANK YOU ALL!
WAH!
WAH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

HEY!
MIHACHI! NINA!
YOU LOOKED SUPER COOL, BIG BRO!
THANKS!
SHIJU.
YOUR VOICE SOUNDED GOOD, TOO.
HEY.
...
THANKS.

THANKS, MIHACHI.
WELL DONE.
YOICHI.
DAMMIT, I BLUSHED!!
I NEVER THANKED YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MIROKU.
I REALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
HEY, YOICHI.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
HUH?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

WELL DONE, BOYS!
CLAP
CLAP
MR. LAVEN-DER?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
IT'S MY JOB.
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...
I CAME TO GIVE YOU SOME BIG NEWS.
OH?
IT'S READY.
YOUR DEBUT SINGLE.

Chapter 10

TODAY I'M WITH THREE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF A HIGHLY POPULAR ANIME SERIES...
FOR A SPECIAL INTERVIEW!
BEFORE WE START, COULD YOU PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELVES?

SO YOU THREE PUT YOUR NAMES TOGETHER AND BECAME MIYOSHI?
YEAH, SORRY. IT'S VERY SIMPLE.

I'M MIROKU, MAIN VOCALIST!

I'M YOICHI, CEO OF THE TALENT AGENCY.

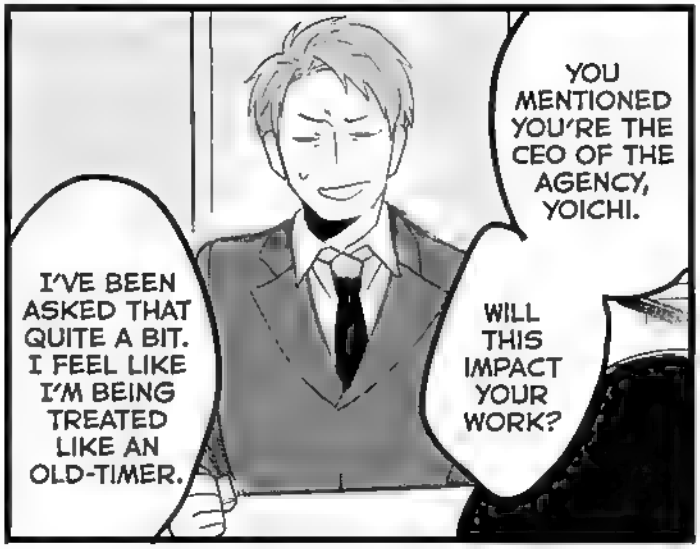
I'M SHIJU, MAIN DANCER.

SURPRISINGLY, THE YOUNGEST HAS THE LEAST STAMINA!
I'M FORTY-ONE AND SHIJU IS FORTY.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY THAT.
SO, MIYOSHI IS AN IDOL GROUP?
THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN THOUGH I'M THIRTY-SIX.
ARE YOU AN ANIME FAN, MIROKU?
YES!
ESPECIALLY MIROKU, I COULD EASILY MISTAKE YOU FOR A STUDENT!
YOU ALL LOOK SO YOUNG!
THAT SOUNDS SO WEIRD COMING FROM YOU.
A STUDENT? I'M AFRAID I'M 100% AN OSSAN.

I RECENTLY UPLOADED A VIDEO OF ME SINGING AND DANCING TO AN ANIME SONG WHICH GOT OVER FIVE MILLION VIEWS.
THAT'S WHERE I GOT THE NICKNAME WHITE PRINCE... WHICH IS A BIT EMBARRASSING.

OUR STAFF IS EXCELLENT SO WE REALLY DON'T NEED A CEO AROUND.
YEAH, OUR MANAGER IS AMAZING!
ARE YOU TRYING TO OUST ME?

WELL, THANKS TO THAT VIDEO WE'RE HERE TODAY.
WE'RE GRATEFUL FOR ALL MIROKU'S DONE.


YOU MENTIONED YOU'RE THE CEO OF THE AGENCY, YOICHI.
WILL THIS IMPACT YOUR WORK?
I'VE BEEN ASKED THAT QUITE A BIT. I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING TREATED LIKE AN OLD-TIMER.

MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO I WAS WITH A TALENT AGENCY.
YOU CAN FIND PHOTOS FROM BACK THEN ON OUR SITE.
OUR FULL HISTORY IS ON OUR OFFICIAL SITE.
THERE ARE ALSO PICTURES FROM WHEN I WORKED IN A HOST CLUB! THEY'RE GOLD.
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR OWN STUFF.
AMAZING! WEREN'T YOU AN IDOL BEFORE AT ONE STAGE, YOICHI?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S SOME REAL GOLD.
NO ONE ASKED YOU.
HEY SHIJU, WEREN'T YOU IN A LEGENDARY DANCE GROUP?
AH! DON'T TELL THEM!

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT YOU COME OUT WITH!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!
YOU'RE QUITE THE TRIO! I THINK I'VE BECOME A FAN OF YOURS, EVEN IF I AM A MAN.
素。
THANK YOU!!!

GREAT JOB ON THE MAGAZINE INTERVIEW!
YOUR SCHEDULE'S GETTING EVEN BUSIER AFTER THE LIVE EVENT!
IT'S GREAT! WE'LL HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER NOW.
I'LL HAVE TO GET MORE USED TO WIELDING MY MANAGERIAL POWERS TOO!
I THINK YOU'RE DOING A FANTASTIC JOB, FUMI.
HUH?

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO DO, SO I THOUGHT I MAY AS WELL WORK OUT.
BUT I'M GOING TO THE GYM. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT MY BAG WITH ME TODAY.
OH.
YOU'RE OFF FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, RIGHT, MIROKU?
YUP.
RUFF
I MEAN...
WHAT'S UP, FUMI?
...
I JUST WANT YOU TO ENJOY YOUR TIME OFF.

YOU'RE SO BUSY YOU HAVEN'T HAD ANY TIME FOR YOURSELF.
REST IS SUPER IMPORTANT TO BE AT YOUR BEST.
AS YOUR MANAGER, I REALLY SHOULD FACTOR THAT INTO YOUR SCHEDULE.
THE MEDIA WILL START AFFECTING YOUR FREEDOM IN A BIG WAY PRETTY SOON.

PAT
ぽん
PLEASE JUST GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK.
I KNOW.
I'M BEING PUSHY, BUT...
FUMI...
FUMI.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF US.
WE'RE SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS OUR MANAGER.
I'M JUST...
HEY, FUMI...

WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

WHAT?!
HAT?!
AT?!
AT?!
FOR FOOD I MEAN.
WHAT?!

IF I'M ON MY OWN I'LL JUST END UP GOING TO THE GYM ANYWAY.
AH... SURE...
SLUMP DOWN
HUH, FUMI?!

WHOOSH
YOU OKAY?
OH.
YEAH!
TURN
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO!
TOO CLOSE! WAY TOO CLOSE!

CLUBMEGA
MEGA
IS IT OKAY IF WE TAKE A LOOK?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I WAS IN AN ARCADE!
OF COURSE!
IS IT OKAY IF WE MAKE A DETOUR ON THE WAY?
UH... SURE!

HMM.
IF WE GET SEPARATED IT'LL BE HARD TO FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.
WHOA, THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE!
THEY'VE GOT A NEW MACHINE IN!
CHATTER
CHATTER
PULL
WE'D BETTER STICK TOGETHER.
!
HUH?
GETTING HUNGRY?
YEAH, A BIT...

Family Restaurant
SORRY FOR BRINGING YOU TO SUCH A CHEAP PLACE.
NO, IT'S FINE!
I WAS HOPING WE COULD GO TO SOMEWHERE A BIT FANCIER.
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I WAS THINKING ABOUT.
?

I HEARD THAT YOU USUALLY HIDE YOUR FACE WITH GLASSES AND A MASK WHEN YOU'RE OUT.
OH, YEAH.
YOU'RE NOT WEARING GLASSES TODAY?
WHAT?

NO. IF YOU DID YOU'D HIDE YOUR LOOKS.
SHOULD I HAVE WORN THEM?

THE THING IS, IF I WORE MY GLASSES I'D SEE BETTER.
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
?
NO WAY.
YOU'RE TOO CUTE EVEN WITHOUT THEM.
IF I HAD THEM ON, TOO...
WELL... WHO KNOWS HOW I'D FEEL.
LIKE MY LITTLE SIS.

SMOLDER
DO WHAT?
IT'S CHEATING.
S-SORRY?
SMOLDER
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME.

TO MAKE UP FOR IT...
NEXT TIME LET'S GO SOMEWHERE FANCIER.
LET ME KNOW WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO GO.

MR. SAKAGUCHI!
AH, IT IS YOU!
I GUESS NOT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU WITH A LADY BEFORE!
OH, MIROKU?
YOU MEAN...
THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE...

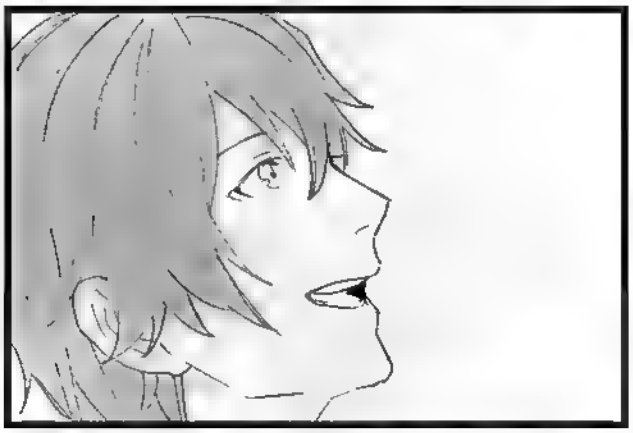
SPITS OUT DRINK
A DATE?

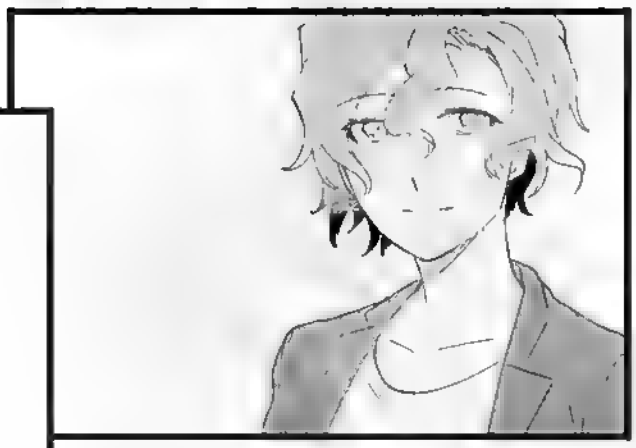
!
STAND UP
I AM THE MANAGER OF MIROKU'S GROUP!
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S HAPPENING!
NO!
HOW DID YOU AND MIROKU MEET?
AH, I HAVE A BAR ON THE SHOP STREET.
I'M SORRY, THAT WAS RUDE OF ME TO SAY.
NO, IT'S FINE.
...

ON THE SHOP STREET?
YEAH. THE ONE BETWEEN THE OFFICE AND THE GYM.

MIROKU PLAYED PIANO FOR US.
THAT'S HOW WE GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING OUT FOR ME FOR A LONG TIME.



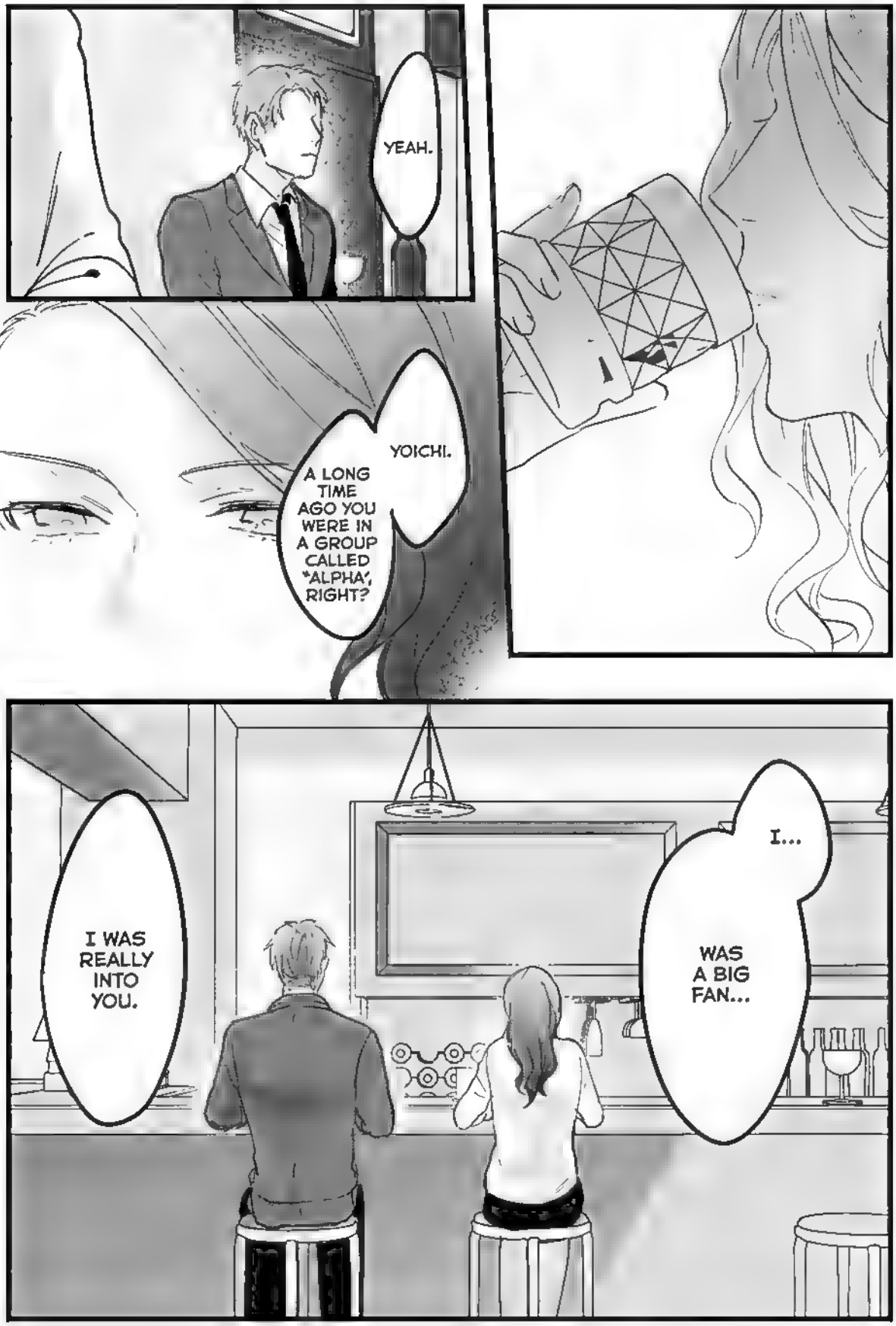


I WENT TO YOUR LIVE RADIO SHOW! IT WAS AMAZING!
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I SAW YOU AND EVERYONE FROM THE STREET IN THE CROWD!
THANK YOU!

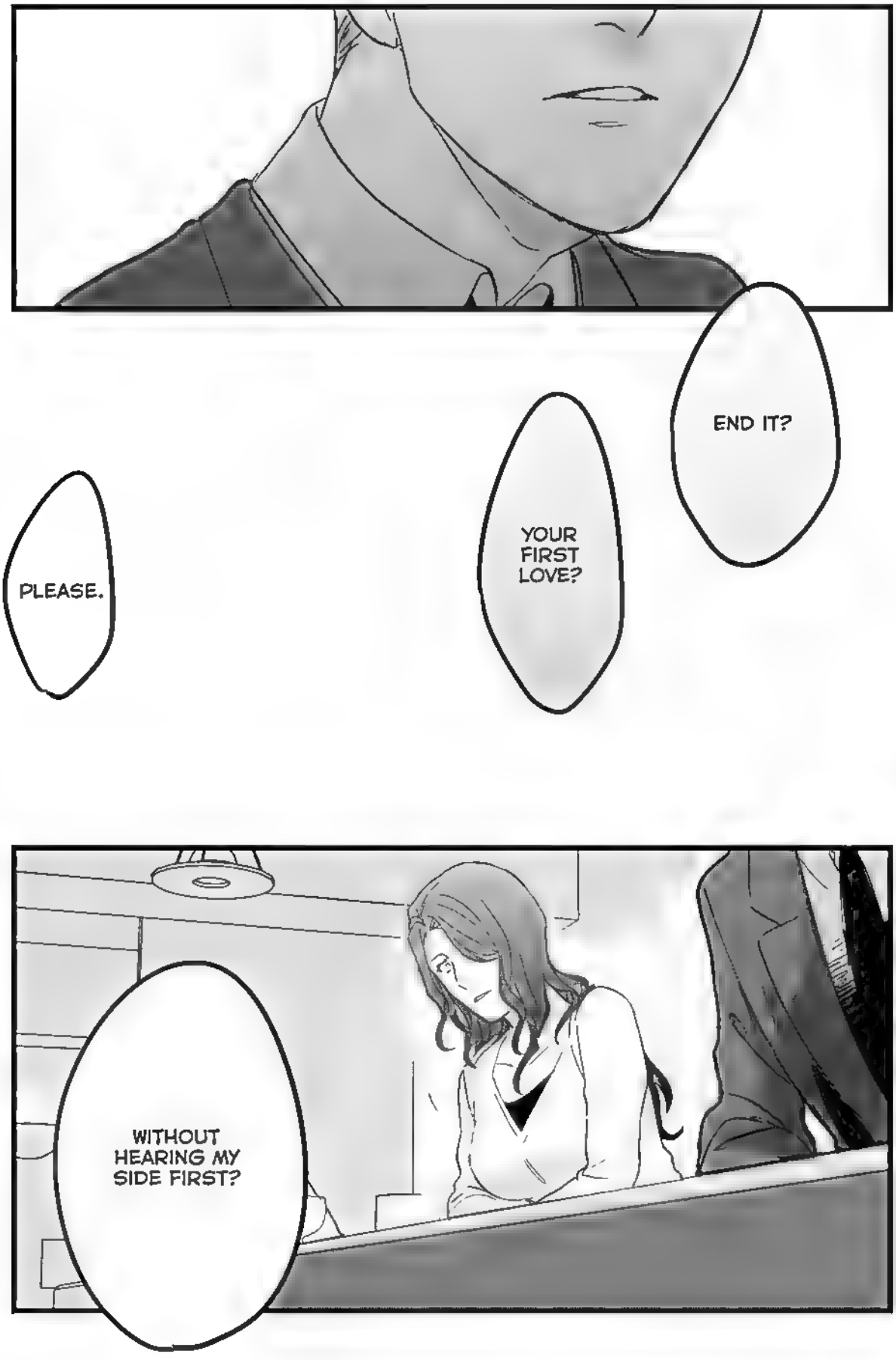
YOU AND FUMI WENT SOMEWHERE TO EAT, RIGHT?
OH. YEAH.
ビクッ!!
STARTLE
S-SORRY?
HOW WAS DINNER?
BUT...
I HOPE I'VE SHOWN I'M A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON HER.
RIGHT?!
YOU GUYS SURE SEEM TO BE GETTING ON WELL.
I CAN'T YET.
YOU SHOULD TELL HER YOU'RE ACTUALLY HER "HERO."

IF I AM...
MAYBE YOU'LL ALL START TO SEE ME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT.
HE'S GOT THAT LOOK THAT'S EASY FOR GIRLS TO FALL FOR.
AND HE'S BEEN SWEET-TALKING FUMI TO GET CLOSER TO HER.
OH, YOICHI?!
AS HER UNCLE, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO FEEL ABOUT THIS.

MIHACHI.
SORRY, DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?
OPEN
I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING.
SO...
IS THIS ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY BEFORE?


YEAH.
YOICHI.
A LONG TIME AGO YOU WERE IN A GROUP CALLED "ALPHA", RIGHT?
I...
WAS A BIG FAN...
I WAS REALLY INTO YOU.

THEN I REALIZED...
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO DRAG OUT YOUR FIRST LOVE.
THEN I FOUND OUT YOU OPENED AN AGENCY.
BUT EVER SINCE I LAID EYES ON YOU I'VE BEEN IN LOVE.
I WAS JUST A FAN...
CREEPY, RIGHT?
SO TELL ME YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN ME.
LET ME END IT.

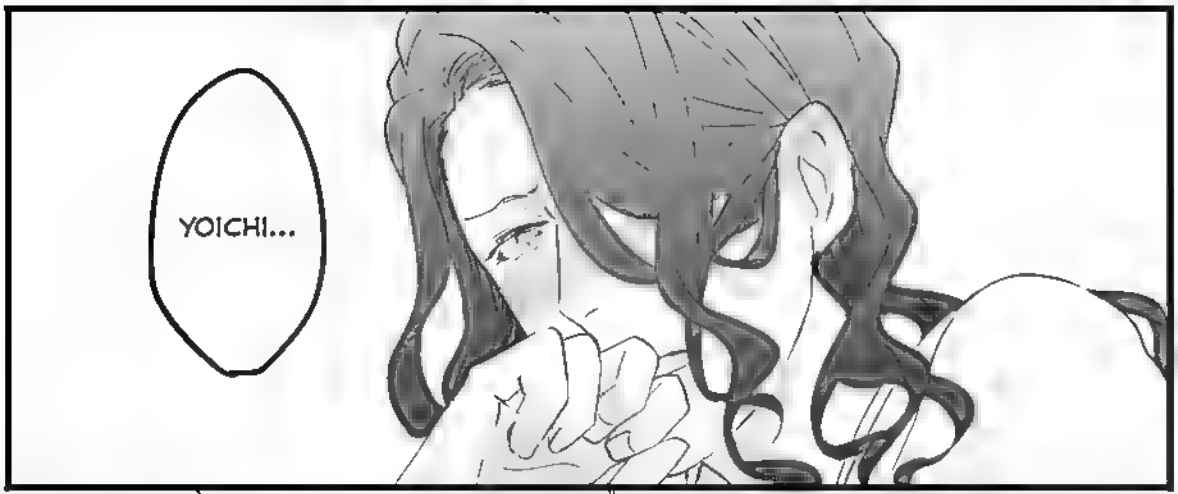

END IT?
YOUR FIRST LOVE?
PLEASE.
WITHOUT HEARING MY SIDE FIRST?

YOU SUPPORTED ME.
WHATEVER I DID.
WHATEVER AGE I WAS.
...
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO...
THAT MEANS...

I GUESS YOU REALLY LOVED ME.

TO HAVE SUCH A PERSON IN MY LIFE...
IS A CHANCE I WON'T LET PASS ME BY.

THAT'S...
A PROMISE.


YOICHI...

THANKS.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.
YOU'RE SO UNFAIR.

Chapter 11

WE'RE TRYING TO WORK OUT A DATE FOR YOUR DEBUT SHOW, TOO.
WE'VE DECIDED ON YOUR DEBUT SONG!
MR. LAVENDER! I HAVE A VENUE IN MIND!
WE'LL GATHER ALL THE PRESS TOGETHER AND–
WE'LL LET IT OFF ALL AT ONCE LIKE ONE GIANT, FLASHY, SPARKLY FIREWORK.
A VENUE IN MIND...?
YES!
SOMEWHERE THAT GAVE ME SO MUCH...
WE JUST HAVE TO DECIDE ON A LOCATION.

THE SHOPPING DISTRICT!
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
CHATTER
CHATTER
344
デビュー
ライブ 開催!!
20XX.XX.XX(日)
五物商店街
入場無料!!
五物商店街
五物商店街

WE CAN'T FIT AS MANY PEOPLE HERE.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW BUT...
NOT TO MENTION, THIS IS YOUR DEBUT SINGLE.
YOU SURE ABOUT THIS PLACE, MIROKU?
SILENCE
SORRY?
YES.
I KNOW.

BUT I STILL WANT TO DO IT HERE...
THE RADIO SHOW...
THE LIVE EVENT...
THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN SHOWED UP AND SUPPORTED US.

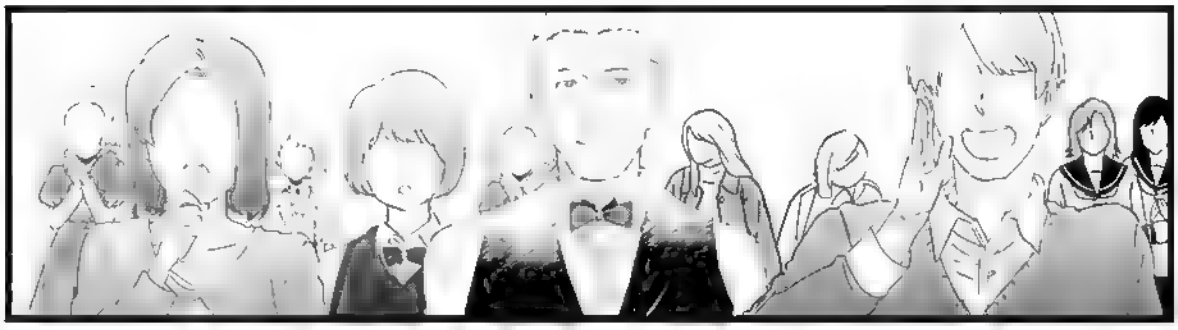
HELLO!
SO...
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO OUR DEBUT SHOW!
WE ARE MIYOSHI!

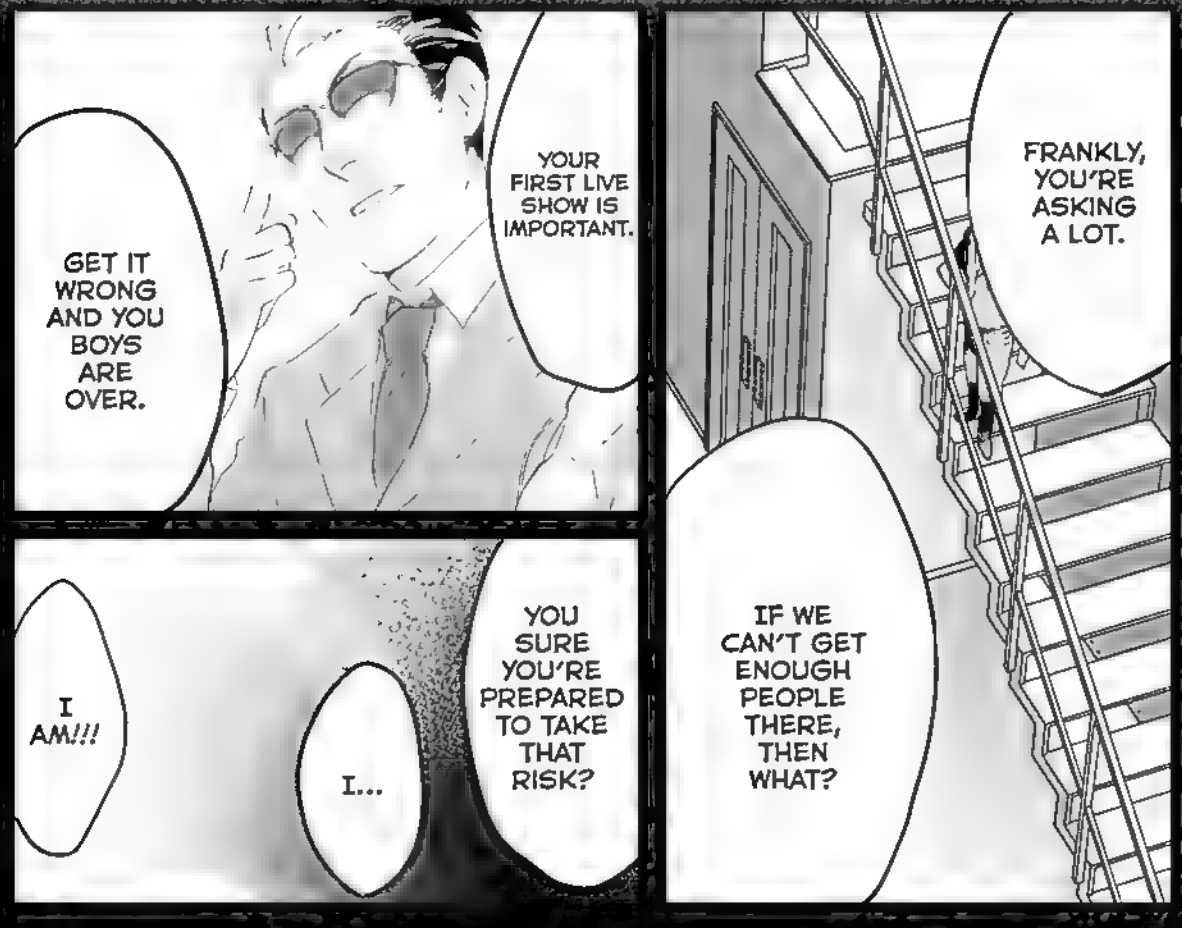
HUH?
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD LATELY.
REALLY... HEH...
OF COURSE! YOU'RE A CELEBRITY AROUND THESE PARTS NOW!
BUT HONEST-LY...
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN LISTEN-ING?
YOU'VE BEEN MODELING FOR MAGAZINES QUITE A LOT, TOO, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO YOU ON THE RADIO.
BETTER?
LISTENING TO YOU THREE REALLY MAKES ME FEEL BETTER.

THE OSAKI FAMILY WERE ALWAYS PROMINENT, NOT JUST IN MY BAR BUT ON THE WHOLE STREET.
WHEN EVERYONE HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE AN IDOL DEBUT AT THIS AGE...
TO BE HONEST I WAS SURPRISED.
THEY STARTED TO WORRY.
BUT...
WHEN EVERYONE HEARD YOU ON THE RADIO, THAT ALL CHANGED.

YOU, YOICHI AND SHIJU...
SEEING YOU THREE GUYS OF A SIMILAR AGE TO US PERFORMING LIKE THAT...
HONESTLY, IT GIVES US COURAGE.
THERE MIGHT NOT BE MUCH WE CAN DO FOR YOU.
BUT JUST LIKE BEFORE... NOW WITH MIYOSHI..
WE'RE BEHIND YOU!

I JUST WANT...
TO GIVE SOME OF IT BACK.
THAT COURAGE...
THAT ENERGY...
THEY'VE GIVEN US.



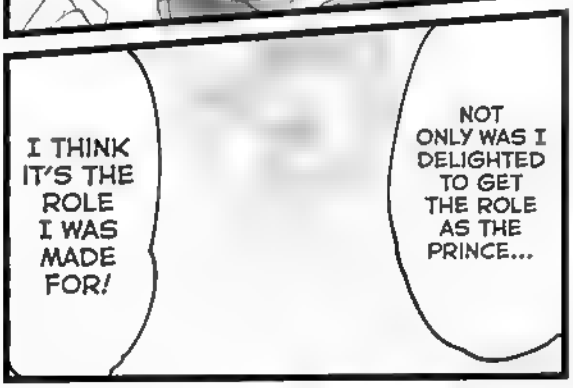

GET IT WRONG AND YOU BOYS ARE OVER.
YOUR FIRST LIVE SHOW IS IMPORTANT.
I AM!!!
I...
YOU SURE YOU'RE PREPARED TO TAKE THAT RISK?
IF WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH PEOPLE THERE, THEN WHAT?
FRANKLY, YOU'RE ASKING A LOT.

LET'S DO IT! LET'S PERFORM IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT!
THRUST
YOU GUYS...
YOU STARTED ALL OF THIS, MIROKU.
ON TOP OF THAT...
WE CAN GIVE BACK TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US.
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE FOR OUR FIRST SHOW.
GOOD.

IF THAT'S THE CASE...
WELL THEN...
THAT'S MIYOSHI'S CHARM.
THEY WON'T LET ANYONE DOWN.
PUT THEM UNDER YOUR SPELL!!
SMOOCH
UWAAH!!!
MIYOSHI!

YOU WERE AMAZING!
WHAT A SHOW! YOUR PROMO-TIONAL VIDEOS GOT ME ALL HYPED TOO!
T-THANKS. HAVE WE...?
NO, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET!
SORRY, I SHOULD HAVE INTRODUCED MYSELF.
I'M ONO.
I'LL BE PRINCE MIROKU'S VOICE ACTOR!
ONO...?

YOUR LIVE RADIO EVENT WAS SPECTACULAR.


NOT ONLY WAS I DELIGHTED TO GET THE ROLE AS THE PRINCE...
I THINK IT'S THE ROLE I WAS MADE FOR!

I WILL!
G-GIVE IT YOUR BEST?
GOD, HE'S YOUNG.

THE SUPER POPULAR VOICE ACTOR ONO KOUSHUU?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I'M A HUGE FAN!

OUTTA ERE...
HUH?
SORRY? WHAT?
NOTH.NG.
←OLD MILLENNIAL STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP WITH THIS KID.

A LADY WITH WAVY, SOFT HAIR. EVEN FROM FAR AWAY SHE WAS GORGEOUS.
IT'S JUST, WHEN I WENT TO SAY HI AT THE LIVE RADIO SHOW, I SAW SOMEONE ALREADY THERE.

ACTUALLY, I NOTICED YOU SURROUND YOURSELF WITH BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE.

To be continued...

OSSAN
IDOL

New Short Story!

MiYoShi and I Went On A Date!

Written by Mochiko Mochida

I'm standing in front of the fountain when Miroku, wearing a hoodie and jeans, comes running towards me with his dazzling smile. Below are things that Miroku said while we were together.

"Sorry, did I make you wait?"

"I was really looking forward to this date, so I put on my favorite hoodie. Look, it's a soft marshmallowy doggy! Cute, right?"

"First, let's hit up the arcade! After that, how about a book store? Maybe pick up a light novel... Ah, sorry. Forget about me, where do you want to go?"

"Huh? Wherever I usually go is okay? You sure?"

"Well then... Let's do some karaoke! We can have fun, just the two of us."

"C'mon, try singing! You don't want to? You're no good? Don't be silly. Can't you sing just once, for me?"

"Oh no, you're shy. How about we sing together? I just want to hear your voice. You have to let me hear it next time, okay?"

"Your voice is really cute, I want to listen to it all day. Can I take a video just for me? No? Are you embarrassed? Haha, you're too cute."

"I guess I'll have to sing. Of course, I can't sing without dancing. I use my karaoke booth time slot to get in as much singing and dancing as I can!"

"Are you tired? I know this really nice cafe! Do you want to go there and rest?"

"I'm a big fan of their honey latte. It's sweet with just a touch of bitterness. Ah, it's so good."

"Ah, you want to try it?"

"Oh, your face has gone all red. Are you all right? Sorry! Could we have water, please?"

On a bench near the train station ticket gates, Yoichi is relaxing, still in his suit. Below are things that Yoichi said while we were together.

"Don't worry, you're not late. I just finished work early today."

"Did I make you rush? Sorry about that. Here, let me help you fix your hair since you were in such a hurry."

"Yeah, you look great!"

"Does the aquarium sound good? I try to come here when I can. You sure? You're too kind. Thank you."

"It's really dark in here. Hold onto my arm. No, no. Stay closer."

"You being shy is adorable, but you'll get mad at me if I continue to say such selfish things like that, right?"

"I can't come as often as I want, but the aquarium really is wonderful. Thank you for coming here with me."

"I booked a table at my regular haunt for after. Fancy something light to eat?"

"Do you drink? We could order some wine."

"Another? No way, if I drink too much, who knows what might happen? Especially with someone as pretty as you..."

"Can we order different dishes as our main? It will be more fun to share, don't you think?"

"Here, say 'aaaah!'"

"Was it too much? Do you want more? Haha, you don't have to be so embarrassed."

"It's your turn to feed me then. Make sure you get enough sauce on it. Ahh... Oh? Your face has gone all red."

"Sorry. Waiter, could we have some water, please?"

I go into the bar. On the far side of the counter sits a figure in a black shirt and jeans. He waves me over. Below are things that Shiju said while we were together.

"Sorry for making you come all this way. I got caught up practicing."

"Honestly, I'm really sorry. Today's on me."

"Huh? Really? It's fine if you're mad though?"

"Ah... You're trying to butter me up. I have a feeling you're up to something. That's fine. You're a good girl."

"Miroku is supposed to be playing piano here today. You've been supporting us this whole time so I thought today was a good day to come."

"Huh? I'm all you want?"

"Really... you trying to flatter this old ossan? You're very cute, so I'll give you a reward."

"Wow! You've gone totally red!"

"Hey now... You're mad an ossan kissed you on the cheek?"

"You're happy? Then I am, too. Ah no, it's nothing..."

"What's up? Are you tipsy?"

"Oh well. Here, hold onto me."

"Hey, let me take care of you more. You say it's fine, but I know you're just trying to go along with me."

"Huh? You fell asleep?"

"Well... I guess you won't mind if I kiss you once more. No one's watching us. Maybe twice more..."

"You smell amazing. I'm in trouble, you're too gorgeous!"

"Ah! What's with the red face? Y-You're awake?!"

"Can I get some water over here!"

Director:

"Okay, let's cut there! I think your date needs a moment to cool down! MiYoShi, take things a bit easier on them in the future!"

MiYoShi:

"What are you talking about?!"

OSSAN
IDOL
VOLUME
2

LET'S DECIDE ON THE COVER!

WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME...
A WAR BROKE OUT TO DECIDE WHICH OUTFIT WE SHOULD USE.
I'LL INTRODUCE MY IDEA FIRST.
THAT OSSAN YOICHI ALWAYS WEARS SUITS.
EVEN WHEN HE ISN'T WORKING.
YOU MEAN SOMETHING LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO A JOB INTERVIEW?
*IMAGINATION

IT'S THIS ONE THOUGH...
VINYL
ROLLER SKATES
IT'S NOT RESPECT-ABLE AT ALL!!
TA-DA
YOU KNOW I WAS AN IDOL, TOO, RIGHT?
THAT'S TRUE. OKAY, THEN I GUESS OSSAN'S IS THE MOST RESPECTABLE LOOK.
HUH?
STARE
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHIJU?
I'M SPEECHLESS. WHAT IS THIS OLD SCHOOL FEEL?
FEELS VERY 80S.
IT'S NOT THAT OLD!
I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, SINCE YOU WANT TO SEE IT THAT MUCH..
YEAH, THIS GUY JUST WANTS TO SHOW OFF...
To be continued...

END

Thank you so much!!

—Sakakibara

A huge thank you to all the designers and everyone involved. And you, dear reader!

—Mochida

Thank you for picking up Ossan Idol Volume 2!

I'll strive to grow alongside these clumsy Ossans! See you in volume 3!

—Ichika Kino

OSSAN
IDOL

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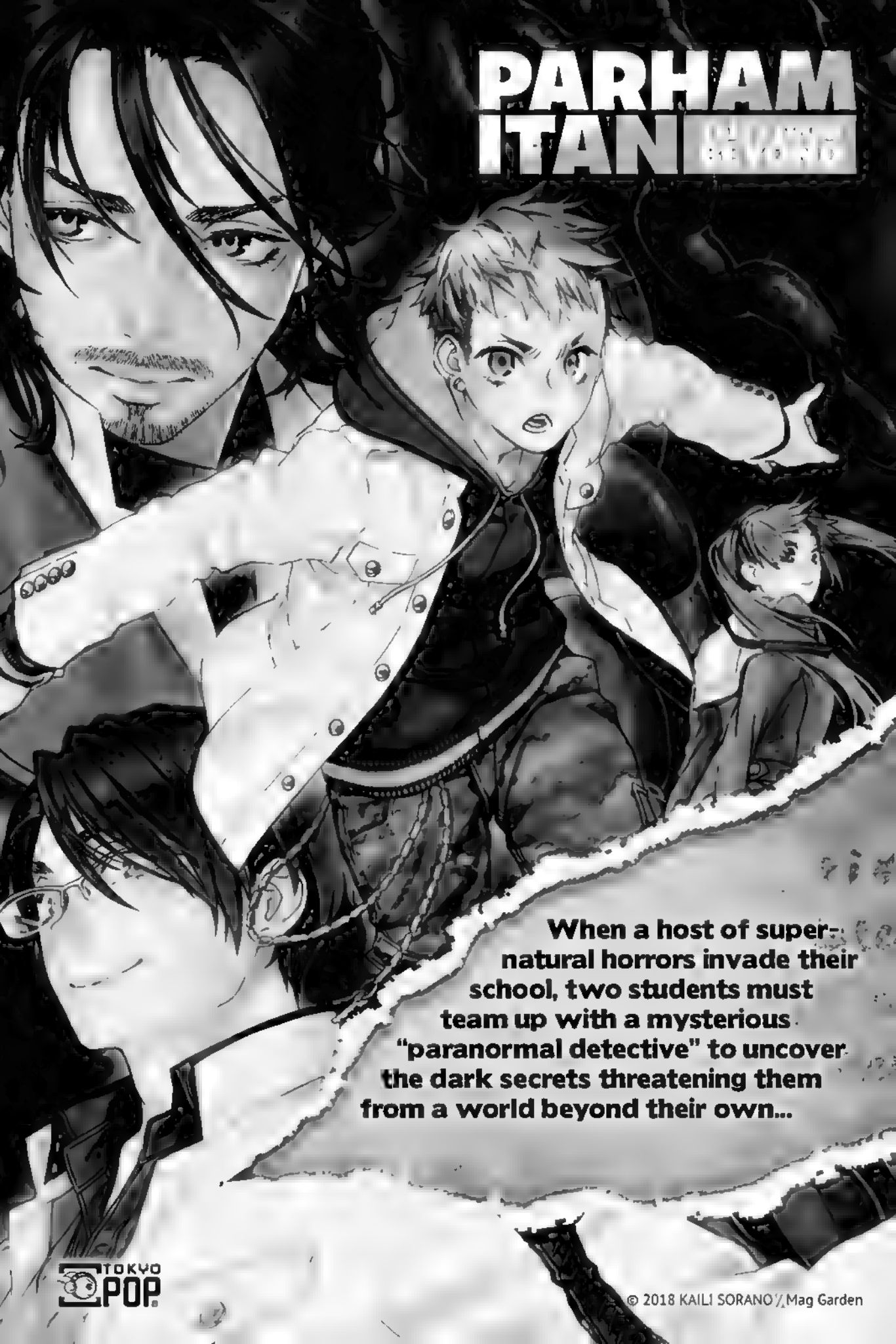
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ITAN
BEYOND
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DON'T CALL ME DIRTY

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LOVE LOVE TOKYOPOP

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Don't Call Me Daddy.

Decisions made when you're young can impact the rest of your life. But as Hanao learns, it's never too late to change and confess your true feelings...

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OSSAN 36 GA IDOL NI NARUHANASHI 2
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STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple! Let's practice -- just start in the top right panel and follow the numbers below!

Crimson from ***Kamo*** / Fairy Cat from ***Grimms Manga Tales***
Morrey from ***Goldfisch*** / Princess Ai from ***Princess Ai***